

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLVII.]

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 1898.

No. 4.

CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	49
Leading Articles:—	
Great Britain's Policy in China	50
The Kiaochau Question & International Rivalries	50
The Opening of Hunan	51
Hongkong Legislative Council	51
Supreme Court	52
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce	53
The Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce	54
The Sale of Injurious Liquors in Hongkong	54
The British Fleet	56
Maritime Disaster at Shanghai	56
The Situation	56
The Powan Ashore	56
The Powan and Kwang Lee in Collision	56
The New Public Offices	56
Prize Distribution at St. Joseph's College	58
The Indian Yarn Trade	59
The Hongkong Canton and Macao Steam-boat Co., Limited	59
The Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Limited	60
The Kowloon Land and Building Co., Limited	60
West Point Building Co., Limited	60
Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	60
Presentation to Mr. E. A. Ram by the Cricket Club	61
Cricket	61
The Royal Hongkong Golf Club	61
Royal Hongkong Yacht Club	62
Correspondences	62
The History of the Kowloon Concession	63
British Girls in Peril at Shanghai	63
Another European Attacked in Shantung	63
The Opening of Hunan	63
Death of General Jones	63
Minerals in Hupeh	63
The Belgian Loan	64
Hongkong and Port News	64
Commercial	65
Shipping	67

BIRTHS.

At Santa Ana, Manila, on the 14th inst., the wife of H. A. MACLEOD, of a son.

At 49, Wyndham Street, on the 18th January, 1898, the wife of CHARLES WOONEY, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

At Shanghai, on the 15th January, 1898, at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, by George Jamieson, Esq., C.M.G., Consul General, and afterwards at the Union Church, by the Rev. Dr. Hykes, ALBERT SMITH, eldest son of H. VINCENT SMITH, South Yarra, Melbourne, to MARY SUTHERLAND MERRILEES, second daughter of ALEXANDER GRANT MERRILEES, of the Inspectorate General of Customs, Shanghai.

At Shanghai, on the 15th January, 1898, at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, by George Jamieson, Esq., C.M.G., Consul General, and afterwards at the Union Church by the Rev. Dr. Hykes, WILLIAM ARTHUR BRADLEY, son of the late JOHN WALDEGRAVE BRADLEY, C.E., of Clifton, England, to ANNE LECKIE MERRILEES, third daughter of ALEXANDER GRANT MERRILEES, of the Inspectorate-General of Customs, Shanghai.

DEATHS.

At the General Hospital, Yokohama, on the 2nd January, H. E. HARRIES, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, son of BENJAMIN HARRIES, Esq., Tenby, Wales, aged 26 years.

At the General Hospital, Yokohama, on the 7th January, THOMAS RYDING GREEN, aged 63 years.

At Streatham, Surrey, England, on the 7th January, 1898, THEO. SAMPSON, late of Canton. (By telegram).

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 21th December arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Ganges*, on the 24th January (31 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

According to a Reuter's telegram, Kiaochau is to be made an open port like Hongkong.

The British squadron has been formed into two divisions. The Southern division, with Admiral Buller in command, was by latest advices at Chusan, and the Northern division, with Rear Admiral Fitzgerald in command, was at Chemulpo.

The *China Gazette* is informed that a contract for the construction of a railway between Ningpo and Shaohsing has been signed by the Chekiang authorities with the representative of a British syndicate. The estimated cost is said to be Tls. 4,000,000.

The *N. C. Daily News* is informed that no money has been paid and none is likely to be paid on account of the Belgian loan, and that the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung is against any loan being made with Belgium now, and wishes to effect one with American capitalists.

A Madrid telegram of the 7th January to the *Comercio* states that the Minister for the Colonies has commissioned Señor Perez, civil engineer, to prepare plans for a system of railways in the Philippines. The first line to be constructed is that from Manila to Taal.

Since the Japanese Government took up the work of developing the resources of the Hokkaido systematically (about thirteen years ago), the population has increased from 60,000 to 700,000. The officials are still busily encouraging emigration thither, as they claim that there is room for six million.—*Hioyo News*.

The constitution of the new Japanese Cabinet is as follows:—Marquis Ito, Premier; Baron Nishi, Foreign Affairs; Viscount Yoshikawa, Home Affairs; Viscount Katsura, War; Marquis Saigo, the Navy; Count Inouye, Finance; Baron Suyematsu, Communications; Marquis Saionji, Education; and Mr. Sone, Justice.

All who are concerned in docking and repairing business, says the *Singapore Free Press*, will be interested to know that our latest Java advices state that the three thousand ton floating dock belonging to the N. I. Marine department now lying at Sourabaya will in April next be towed round to Sabang Bay, Pulo Way, to be used there for docking and repairing.

The departure of the Japanese Standing Squadron for Wei-hai-wei has been postponed to the 28th inst. The squadron is now at Yokosuka, and consists of ten or twelve war-vessels, including the *Fuji*, *Yashima*, *Chinyen*, *Matsushima*, *Itsukushima*, and *Hashidate*. When ready, the squadron will be the most powerful one that has ever been seen in Far Eastern waters.—*Nagasaki Press*.

Dr. Abercrombie, for the last eight years U.S. Consul at Nagasaki, was relieved on the 12th January by Mr. Charles B. Harris, who, with his wife and daughter, arrived in the morning by the *City of Peking*. Dr. Abercrombie left for home the same afternoon by the *City of Rio de Janeiro*, a large number of friends assembling on board to bid him farewell, and to wish him a prosperous voyage.

M. Grille, an engineer of the great French works, of the Société Fives Lille, is at present in Shanghai, and according to *L'Echo de Chine*, his firm has secured a concession for a railway between Seoul and a place on the Chinese border.

Senor José de Navarro, the Spanish Consul, informs us that His Excellency the Governor-General of the Philippines wired to him on Sunday as follows:—"Just finished the celebration with unusual pomp of a solemn Te Deum of thanksgiving for the restoration of peace."

So little hope is entertained in Peking about the reported British Government guaranteed loan to China at 110 and 3 per cent., says the *China Gazette*, that Li Hung-chang telegraphed on the 18th January to Shanghai, asking if the loan at 94 and 5 per cent., partly signed with the Hooley-Jameson Syndicate, could still be had.

Of the ten steamers ordered from England by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha for the service of its European line, seven have already been brought to Japan. The remaining three vessels are expected to arrive in Japan by the end of the present month, their names being the *Inaba-maru*, *Sado-maru*, and *Bingo-maru*. The *Hitachi-maru*, now in course of construction at the local Mitsu Bishi Dockyard to the order of the same Company, is nearing completion.—*Nagasaki Press*.

The Singapore papers record the death of Mr. W. Paterson, news of which was received by wire. Mr. Paterson was the senior partner of the firm of Messrs. Paterson Simons & Co., of Singapore and London. His age was seventy-five. The deceased gentleman came out to Singapore about 1840 and remained there till 1864, when he assumed the management of the London firm. He was for many years Chairman of Directors of the Chartered Bank, and on his retirement in 1895 was presented with a service of plate. He was also a director of the Thames and Mersey Insurance Co., of the London, Paris and Hamburg Bank; and was on the directorate of other companies.

Interviewed at Tacoma on his arrival there from Vladivostok on the 12th December, Captain McGregor of the steamship *Glenloch*, said Russia intends to open that port next year as the great North Asiatic seaport. Great preparations are in progress in the way of improvements expected to attract and aid commerce. These include terminals of the Siberian Railway and magnificent terminal wharves supported by concrete piers standing in thirty-six feet of water. Everything is done on a gigantic scale at Vladivostok. A new dock 560 feet long, 90 feet wide, and 30 feet deep has just been finished, the *Glenloch* being the first merchantman docked in it. This dock was cut out of a solid rock bluff, and has been several years in building. Vladivostok's new ice-breaker, built in Denmark, broke ice twenty-eight inches thick at the rate of three knots per hour, and is expected to keep the harbour open this winter. Captain McGregor could not obtain a bill of health until the Russian Admiral commanded his physician to furnish one. "Why," said the Admiral, "this is a fortress, not a commercial port." Vladivostok has about 40,000 inhabitants, including the great garrison stationed there. So numerous are the soldiers and sailors that one may walk blocks and scarcely meet any civilians.

GREAT BRITAIN'S POLICY IN CHINA.

(21st January.)

Reuter to-day supplies us with two important items relating to China. The first is a declaration by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the effect that Great Britain does not desire territorial acquisition in China, but that she does desire to open the door of that country to the world's commerce, and that the Government is absolutely determined, even if necessary at the cost of war, not to allow the shutting of the door of commerce against us. That is a perfectly correct attitude, which we trust the Government will firmly maintain. Commerce is our vulnerable point, and it is there that our rivals try to strike us. Of this we have an instance in the opposition of Russia and France to the conditions of the proposed British loan to China, which is the second item contained in Reuter's telegram. Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, we are told, has informed the Tsungli Yamen that Great Britain is willing to provide a loan on the following conditions, namely, the opening of three treaty ports, including Talienwan and Nanning, the non-alienation of the Yangtze Valley, and permission to Great Britain to extend the Burmah railway through Yunnan. China approves of these conditions, but the Russian and French Ministers oppose them. On what ground can this opposition be based, and what right have France or Russia to have any say in the matter at all? The opening of additional ports would be to the advantage of France and Russia, as well as to that of England, in proportion to the trade of the respective countries. England seeks no exclusive advantage for herself, but simply that certain ports shall be thrown open to the trade of the whole world on equal terms. Equal terms, however, do not suit our rivals; they want special terms for themselves. We fail also to see what right either Russia or France has to object to the extension of the Burmah railway into Yunnan. England has not objected to the scheme of Russian railways in Manchuria nor to the extension of the Tonkin railway into Kwangsi or Yunnan. In fact the more China is opened by the establishment of railway communication with the surrounding countries the better. But if England refrains from putting spokes in the wheels of other Powers in their relations with China she may fairly claim that they shall also refrain from putting spokes in hers, or, to change the metaphor, she is justified in saying that she has paid for her seat at the show and is not going to be elbowed out. It is true that if Russia really entertains the design attributed to her of ultimately annexing Manchuria, the establishment of an open port at Talienwan, in close proximity to Port Arthur, might be an inconvenience to her; but it is not open to her to take that objection, in the first place because she has no special claim to Manchuria, and in the second place because at present she is affecting friendship towards China, which is incompatible with designs of plundering her of her territory. Thus in acquiring the use of Port Arthur she has been careful as yet not to proceed to direct annexation, but ostensibly relies simply on a friendly arrangement, the port remaining nominally Chinese. England's avowed policy is to maintain the integrity of China as a field for the world's trade, and although some doubt may be entertained whether in the long run it would not pay us better to let the empire fall to pieces and take our share of the fragments, the policy

decided upon must now be consistently carried out. A correspondent of a London paper the other day neatly remarked that the present idea of a *quid pro quo* at the Foreign Office appears to be that, if we have two shillings and one is stolen, it is agreed the one stolen may be kept provided the other is not taken. We are glad to say that, as regards the Far East at all events, a more correct idea of the national interests and dignity is now entertained, and we trust there will be no retrocession from the position taken up by the Government, as defined by Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, namely, that even if it involves war Great Britain will not allow the shutting of the door of commerce against her.

(25th January.)

As we remarked the other day, it is satisfactory to at last have a declaration of their policy in Eastern Asia from Her Majesty's Ministers. The pronouncement by Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH at Swansea was plain, straightforward, and unmistakable. It had already been declared by Lord SALISBURY's Government that they would be no party to any scheme for the partitionment of China, and this is a reiteration of it in even more definite language. It is at all events reassuring to know the Government have a policy, though we may differ from them in thinking it hardly goes far enough. In principle the British Government are unquestionably correct. It would be better far to uphold the Chinese Government and preserve the Central Kingdom intact, if only there was any prospect of its being properly administered by Chinese rulers. But those who have had any experience know only too well how utterly hopeless it is to expect progressive reform from the mandarin. As well might we expect the leopard to change his spots or the Ethiopian his skin. To lie, to scheme, to deceive, and to rob are a second nature to the Chinese officials; it is an inevitable result of their system. It is vain to expect reform, for none of the officials have learned better, and they must, in the slow course of the ages, be educated to it. Meantime if the administration is to be placed in competent hands, if measures of reform are to be inaugurated, and if China is really to be opened up it will be necessary to do more than to accept a few proclamations or promises from the Peking authorities that they will mend their ways. Such pledges would incontinently be broken before the ink was dry on the paper. The Chinese officials, from the Emperor down to the meanest yamen runner, are not to be trusted, and any project of amendment which involves their continuance in power must prove entirely valueless. The day for partitioning the corrupt carcass of Cathay may not yet have arrived, perhaps, but it will surely come. There is no health in the body politic, and no reform seems likely to come from within.

In the meantime it is Great Britain's mission to preserve her trade in this vast though rotten empire, a trade which we see imperilled by the shortsighted selfishness of other Powers who are anxious to reap where they have not sown and create a private preserve for themselves out of what by Great Britain's unselfish efforts in the past was made a market for the world. We do not wish to pose as the special defender of China, for it is doubtful whether the preservation of her independence would prove a boon to her people; but the present juncture, when her would-be heirs are intent only on procuring exclusive advantages for themselves, is not the time to discuss a partitionment. When our

rivals in business have been educated up to the point of agreeing to a fair field and no favour, it may become practicable to discuss some scheme for the more effective administration of the eighteen provinces which at present groan under the misgovernment of the mandarins. It is perhaps matter for regret that Great Britain should have to assume an attitude of isolation in China, but this is not her fault. If other Powers were prepared to support her policy she would be only too willing to work with them, but apparently, as in former years, they are willing to allow her to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for their delectation. But Great Britain has had to face a hostile Europe in past years, and what has been done before can be achieved again, if the Colonies stand by the mother country. There is, too, little real danger of war. Neither of the Powers desires to enter upon a struggle the issue of which would be so uncertain in its final results and so absolutely sure to prove immediately disastrous to all combatants. At the same time it is well to recognise the fact that the situation is a strained one, and that the utmost tact is needed to bring matters to a peaceful and satisfactory conclusion. That the negotiations have not yet reached that stage is amply proved by the latest advices and the fact that the torpedo-boat destroyers have been despatched north while the cruiser *Edgar* is still detained here instead of proceeding home at once with the relieved crews.

THE KIAOCHAU QUESTION AND INTERNATIONAL RIVALRIES.

The despatch of the German expedition to take possession of Kiaochau and thus establish a coaling station and ultimate colony in Shantung is regarded variously in different countries of Europe. The French Press, not altogether unsympathetic in a policy of colonial expansion, even with their rivals, and not perhaps sorry to see Germany acquire some further responsibilities abroad, have expressed the opinion that the acquisition of Kiaochau was a fitting reward for the service rendered to China by Germany in joining France and Russia to prevent the annexation of the Liaotung peninsula by Japan after the war.

A fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind, and France is possibly still on the lookout for the completion of her reward for the same service. The continued presence of French men-of-war on the Hainan coast may be taken as an indication of the tendency of Gallic inclinations. The Russian Press, on the other hand, at once expressed profound dissatisfaction at the action of Germany, and though the Government of St. Petersburg did not choose to openly endorse this outburst of feeling they certainly permitted it. The reason for this, also, is not far to seek. Kiaochau was the very port under the secret convention said to have been negotiated by Count CASSINI, which Russia had specially marked for her own, and great must have been her disappointment at being thus outwitted and forestalled. Having, however, repudiated the reputed convention, Russia could not publicly protest. In the face of her own already large acquisitions in Manchuria and her intended encroachments in Korea, she could not so openly play the part of dog in the manger to Germany—to whom she was indebted for assistance in overawing little Japan and snatching from her the fruits of victory—as to actively protest against the cession of this port in compensation for the outrages on German mission-

aries. As for Great Britain, she has throughout maintained a benevolent neutrality. Germany had undoubtedly suffered wrongs from China. Her missionaries had been murdered in cold blood and German officers had been insulted. The British Government were therefore not at all likely to intervene on behalf of a Power that has again and again permitted, if not actually incited, the savage murder of unoffending British missionaries, and for which crimes no reparation beyond the punishment of the immediate instruments has ever been exacted. If Germany does not choose to tamely submit to such contumelious treatment, and insists upon the condign punishment of the instigators (which England has never done), with at the same time substantial compensation, we can at least admire her determination and throw no obstacle in the way of her demands being satisfied.

Of course there are some dissenters from this view, both in the Press and elsewhere, and in some quarters ridiculous alarm at so-called German designs has been expressed. Amongst others Sir GEORGE BADEN POWELL has been giving the world the benefit of his ideas. Speaking on the 18th ult., at Kirkdale, Liverpool, he referred to the German movement in China, and after telling his audience that he had had some experience in China and the Far East, he said that in a short time they would find that the great question of Europe would be the partition of China. "He knew as a fact that there was a large and influential set of men in the German Empire, who had the ear of the German Emperor, whose one ambition in life was 'to make of China what they called a German India. But, whenever China was opened up to commerce, the Britisher would certainly come in for a large slice 'of the trade.'" It is to be regretted that a public man and member of Parliament, professing to understand what he was talking about, should give utterance to statements calculated to arouse jealousy and mistrust. The partition of China, if it does come, will be the work of Russia and France, not of Germany, and it is likely to be delayed by the mutual jealousies of the Great Powers and the distaste of Great Britain for such a policy. The British Government has, indeed, through the mouth of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, very plainly expressed its opposition to a policy of dismemberment of the Chinese Empire, not so much from any sympathy with the utterly corrupt Government of the Manchus, as from a fear that portions of the Emperor KWANG SU's dominions which are now markets for British goods would cease to be open to those manufactures if annexed by these protectionist countries. Moreover, Great Britain is not anxious to increase her territorial responsibilities, which are already so vast. Her trade, however, she means to protect, at whatever cost, and is prepared to do so at the risk of a great war if necessary. This is the position taken up by Lord SALISBURY, and it has unquestionably been provoked, by the arbitrary and aggressive attitude of the Russian representatives at Peking and Seoul. There is no note of aggression or defiance in the British ultimatum, but its tone is decided, and may be unwelcome at St. Petersburg. For our own part we are not without strong sympathy with Muscovite aspirations for an outlet on the Pacific which shall remain unfrozen throughout the year, but Russian diplomacy has been at once too tortuous and too rude to attain its ends. Presuming on the willing docility with which her ally follows her lead, Russia has latterly cast off the mask,

and played her cards with haughty disregard for public opinion. Whilst formerly she studiously sought to conceal the hand of steel by a silken glove, she is now careless of consequences, insolent in the consciousness of strength. But once more she may find she has made a mistake. Much more could be accomplished by working with than against England. A straightforward policy will also serve better in the end than a crooked one, and is not so apt to recoil on the promoters.

Meantime the experiment now being tried by Germany at Kiaochau will be watched with great interest, and we are curious to see whether she has learned from the achievements of Great Britain the impolicy of fettering trade at a new port by the imposition of heavy duties in order to give home products an advantage. It is to be hoped the advantages reaped by German manufacturers and merchants from free trade in Hongkong will have impressed even the German Government with the wisdom of following so good an example, and that they will avoid the mistakes made by France in choking trade in Saigon and the ports of Tonkin, in order to secure a monopoly there for goods of French origin. A good deal may rest on the course of action pursued by the German Government in this respect. If they follow the protectionist policy to which France and Russia cleave so persistently, Great Britain will naturally be confirmed in her determination to uphold the integrity of China, however badly indisposed the Far Eastern Sick Man may seem to be.

THE OPENING OF HUNAN.

When the province of Hunan is thrown open to foreign trade we may possibly see a considerable acceleration of the forward movement in China. Hunan has given many great men to the Empire, it is a well-to-do province, and the people, their anti-foreign proclivities notwithstanding, are supposed to possess more than the average of intellectual vigour to be found in China. When once these people have been brought into more intimate relations with foreigners and have seen for themselves the advantages of Western methods and appliances in relation to transport, manufactures, and the general improvement of the conditions of life, they may be led to fall in with the forward movement heartily and become the leaders of the Empire in the path of modern progress, for it is often the case that those who most violently oppose a cause become upon conversion its most ardent supporters and advocates. And the opening of Hunan is probably now not far off. CHANG CHIH-TUNG is said to have warned the Governor of the province that he must be prepared for its opening to international trade, and to have advised him to encourage the Hunanese to be ready to compete in trade with foreigners by having their own steamers and cargo transporting facilities. The people, however, seem scarcely to have needed such direct encouragement, for at the same time that the report of CHANG CHIH-TUNG's expression of opinion on the subject reaches us we also read that the gentry and merchants of Hupeh intend to run a line of steamers between Hankow, Shasi, Wuchang, Ichang, and points in Lake Tungting as far as Changsha, the capital of Hunan. The steamers of the new company will be allowed to carry cargo in addition to passengers and tow junks in the waters not yet opened by treaty to foreign vessels. This, if true, is distinctly encouraging, for it would be in every respect preferable that the opening of Hunan and the

other provinces still closed to foreign trade should take place voluntarily rather than under compulsion. CHANG CHIH-TUNG is reported to have said in his communication to Governor CHEN PAO-CHEN:—"I am never far wrong in my political forecasts and I can assure you that the time has arrived when neither your people nor the Central Government will be able to prevent Hunan province from being opened to international commerce." This is supposed to have been included in a confidential telegraphic despatch, and possibly the whole story may be apochryphal, but if it is true it forms another instance of CHANG's intelligent foresight.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held at the Council Chamber on the 25th January. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, G.C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY Major-General BLACK, C.B. (Officer Commanding the Troops).

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. M. GOODMAN (Attorney-General).

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master.)

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police.)

Hon. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.

Hon. WAI A YUK.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Head Master of Queen's College for 1895, further papers respecting the proposed new Government offices, and the Supreme Court revenue returns for 1897.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS moved the adoption of the minutes of a meeting of the Public Works Committee held on the 11th January.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Carried.

HIS EXCELLENCY BIDS THE COUNCIL

FAREWELL.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, my principal object in calling a meeting of Council this afternoon was that I might have an opportunity of announcing to you officially a fact with which you are already acquainted privately, that I am leaving this colony on the 1st of February and that my successor will be Sir Henry Blake. The Secretary of State for the Colonies, to whom I telegraphed a few days ago, is unable to inform me of the exact date upon which my successor will arrive in Hongkong, but I assume that after eight or nine years' hard work in Jamaica he will probably apply for several months' leave of absence. In the meantime, His Excellency General Black will administer the affairs of this Government, a duty for which he is eminently qualified. (Applause.) I have to thank you all, gentlemen, for the kindness and consideration which you have extended to me during the past six years and two months—a term of office which, uninterrupted by any leave of absence, I do not think has ever been exceeded by a Governor of any one of Her Majesty's Colonies. To Mr. Chater, the senior unofficial member, my thanks are especially due. From you, gentlemen, I have received valuable advice, and I think I may fairly say on some occasions even unanimous support. I can assure you that I shall always look back with great pleasure upon our meetings here—and if I should ever recall any serious difference of opinion which may have occurred be-

tween the executive and the unofficial members of Council I shall not forget that we one and all, according to our own lights, although we differed, were solely animated by a desire to do what we individually thought was best for the interests of this progressive colony. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I bid you farewell and may every success attend you in the future, both in your public and private capacities. (Applause.)

Hon. C. CHATER—Your Excellency, we have listened with much interest to the announcement you have just made, which, although not unexpected, when thus officially spoken emphasises its reality. Speaking on my own behalf and, I trust, on behalf of my unofficial colleagues present, I desire to express my sincere appreciation of the able manner in which you have for the past six years presided over this Council—(applause)—and of the unfailing courtesy and forbearance shown by you to all. (Applause.) During your Excellency's administration many important Ordinances have been added to the statute book and many important public works accomplished and others inaugurated. (Applause.) This Council, as well as the Executive Council, has been enlarged, and the colony thereby afforded more voice in the control of its affairs. Your Excellency arrived in this colony at a time of deep depression. You will leave it in a condition of renewed prosperity with everything on a sounder basis; and this has come to pass in spite of some adverse conditions, namely, the continued dullness of trade and two outbreaks of plague. Under your auspices most important sanitary legislation has been carried through, greatly to the benefit of public health, though in the face of a good deal of opposition; and the city now is in a far better position to grapple with epidemics than it has ever been before. (Applause.) Naturally there has been some friction occasionally and our debates at times have been very warm indeed, but your Excellency has held the reins with tact and impartiality, and now in laying them down you have the great satisfaction of knowing that you will leave the colony better in every respect than you found it. (Applause.) I feel only too-conscious that I am unable to do justice to the occasion, but I trust that my unofficial colleagues, some of whom will no doubt address you themselves, will supplement my feeble attempt at expressing the general appreciation of your Excellency's successful and popular administration, which has also been the longest since the founding of this colony. And now, Sir, in bidding you officially farewell I have only to say that although we may not meet at this table or in this Council Chamber again, yet we shall cherish with deep and lively recollection the urbanity with which you have always presided over our deliberations. In the best sense of the term I am sure we all join in wishing you, Sir, goodbye. (Applause.)

Hon. HO KAI—Sir, I fully concur with the remarks that have fallen from the lips of the hon. the senior unofficial member. I have been with him in the sentiments he has expressed in regard to your Excellency. For the past six years your Excellency has most successfully presided over this Council and during that long period your consummate tact, your wise discretion, and your unfailing courtesy have promoted good feeling and harmony amongst hon. members and increased the usefulness of their deliberations. Whether we agreed or disagreed upon a measure or a subject, whether we engaged in heated discussion or pleasant banter, the decorum and dignity of the Council have always been maintained. During the six years of your administration we have passed many useful measures and have revised and improved a great many old Ordinances, but I venture to say that in no instance has any harassing or embarrassing legislation been passed. So far as the public works of the colony are concerned, when your Excellency assumed office there were many useful works in progress and in point of completion, but your Excellency has inaugurated many useful works and when they are completed—such as the Peak roads, the road leading from Plantation Road to Magazine Gap, the new houses that are to be built in Taipingshan, and other new works which your Excellency has caused to be inaugurated—all these, when completed, I say, will remind the colony of your energetic and what I might call sanitary government. (Ap-

plause.) The financial position of the colony has steadily improved from year to year under your Excellency's administration, and now I venture to think that the colonial finances are so much improved as to be placed on a sound and healthy basis, pessimistic views to the contrary notwithstanding. (Hear hear.) Now, Sir, in bidding you farewell to-day I wish to tender you my personal thanks for unvarying kind assistance I have received at your hands as the senior representative of the Chinese community. I have on more than one occasion—in fact on many occasions—made representations on behalf of the Chinese to your Excellency. You have always received such representations most kindly and subjected them to your kindest consideration. You have granted a great number of requests, and the few occasions on which you have found refusal necessary you have carefully explained the reason why the requests could not be granted. I wish to thank you further for the interest you have always taken in Chinese affairs and most especially for the increased representation which you have given to them on this Council. The hon. member whom you have so happily nominated to be the junior member of this Council will represent the Chinese in many ways much better than I and will render the greatest assistance in looking after and protecting their interests. Now I am sure that my hon. friend, Mr. Wei A Yuk, will join with me in assuring your Excellency that by this act alone you have won the lasting gratitude of the Chinese community of this colony. Now, Sir, as probably this is the last time you will preside over us in this Council I, as a member of this Council, wish you goodbye and all future happiness and prosperity. (Applause.)

Hon. WEI A YUK—Your Excellency, my hon. friend and hon. colleague has so well and fully expressed my own views and sentiments with regard to your Excellency that he has left me nothing more to add than to express my entire concurrence with his remarks. I join with him in wishing your Excellency health, happiness, and prosperity. (Applause.)

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING—I have listened with interest and with great pleasure to the remarks made by the senior unofficial member and by the two unofficial members representing the Chinese community, and with all of them I fully concur. The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai has referred to the great consideration which you have shown to all questions affecting the welfare of the Chinese community, and I would like also to mention the support you have always taken in all matters in connection with the commercial progress and prosperity of this colony during the past six years. (Applause.) During that period you have warmly supported the many new industrial undertakings started in this colony and in many other ways helped the mercantile community, who, I consider, have good cause to be most grateful to you. (Applause.) I also desire to wish you long life and every happiness in the future. (Applause.)

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—You Excellency, the hon. members who have just spoken have actually taken the wind out of my sails and I have very little to add to the remarks which have been made. As the oldest member of the Jewish community in Hongkong I can endorse every word of praise that has been spoken. To be brief, I can only say that by your departure we shall lose a kind friend, a good associate, and an able colleague, and I can only trust that those who succeed you will follow the example you have set in your career, which I am certain will result in the happiness of the inhabitants generally of this Island. With these words, Sir, I wish you farewell and happy meetings with friends in the old country. (Applause.)

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—Gentlemen, it only remains for me to reiterate my hearty thanks to you for the kindness you have shown me and for the handsome tribute you have just paid to my administration. It is certainly gratifying to me to know that I leave the colony in a very good position and that I have given satisfaction not only to the public generally but to the Chinese, who form an important part of the community. I can only claim to have done my duty honestly and without fear, favour, affection, or ill-will, and I am quite sure that my successor will follow in my steps. (Loud Applause.)

SUPREME COURT.

18th January.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

A POINT OF LAW.

The Attorney-General (Hon. W. M. Goodman) mentioned the case of Wong On, who was charged with bribing a constable.

Defendant, who was on bail, did not answer when his name was called.

The Attorney-General explained that the bond money had been deposited at the Magistracy. He had carefully gone into the facts of the case. The defendant was in possession of some Manila lottery tickets and he offered \$5 to a constable who went up to him in consequence of his suspicious behaviour. He (the Attorney-General) had come to the conclusion that if the police had arrested the man for the mere possession of the lottery tickets, that was not an offence at law. He offered money to the police not to arrest him, but there were grave doubts as to bribery, because the money was not offered to the policeman to do anything which was contrary to his duty. Therefore counsel asked for a *nolle prosequi* to be entered.

His Lordship—It is a very doubtful point of law, Mr. Attorney. I think the defendant should have appeared here. What do you suggest on that point?

The Attorney-General—I think, my Lord, that as he does not appear his recognizances should be estreated unless he can give a valid reason for his absence.

His Lordship—It may be that he attempted, as he thought, to evade justice.

The Attorney-General—Of course he could not have thought what was in my mind. I ask your Lordship to estreat the recognizances subject to his making any application to your Lordship.

His Lordship consented to this course being adopted.

A BUSY JURYMEN EXCUSED.

The Attorney-General asked that Mr. D. Kennedy might be excused from attendance on the jury that morning as he wished to superintend the unloading of some animals from a ship in the harbour. If he did not do this work himself the animals would perhaps be injured. His Lordship granted Mr. Kennedy leave of absence until the afternoon.

CONVICTION OF A CONSTABLE.

Liu Chu Yau was charged with demanding with menaces the sum of \$25 from the master of a junk on the 4th December.

The Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys, Crown Solicitor) prosecuted. The prisoner, who pleaded not guilty, was undefended. The jurors were—Messrs Sierich, J. Goodman, P. A. Barlow, A. A. Joseph, J. A. Plumb, V. de C. Rozario, and F. F. Barretto.

The prisoner was a Chinese constable at the time the offence was committed. On the 4th December a faki on a bumboat went ashore and bought two bottles of brandy. After taking them on board the prisoner told the men they were breaking the law and he should arrest them unless he was paid \$60. The master of the bumboat was sent for and by way of emphasizing his authority prisoner twice blew his police whistle. The master came on board and after some conversation gave the prisoner \$25.

The prisoner was found guilty and sent to gaol for fifteen months with hard labour.

FRAUD.

G. H. Schwalm was charged with obtaining \$500 from a Chinese firm by false pretences.

The Attorney-General prosecuted and prisoner, who pleaded not guilty, defended himself. The jurors were—Messrs. G. M. Carvalho, T. Banks, F. M. Cama, G. L. Tomlin, J. Alves, A. N. P. dos Remedios, and V. F. V. Ribeiro.

The prisoner was temporarily employed by the German Consul, during the absence of the secretary, and the evidence showed that he went to a Chinese firm and induced the master to lend him \$500 by falsely representing that he had received \$1,000 from the German Consul and that he required an additional \$500 to obtain a position as shipping master.

The prisoner was found guilty. His Lordship, in passing sentence of eight months' imprisonment with hard labour, said the prisoner had been guilty of a very shabby fraud.

19th January.

THE SHELLEY STREET MURDER.

Lam Chan Wa was charged with the wilful murder of a house boy named Li Fat Tong on the 14th November in a house in Shelley Street.

The Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted and Mr. C. Dick Melbourne defended.

The prisoner, when called upon to plead, said he did not remember anything.

The jurors were—Messrs. J. M. V. de Figueredo, F. E. Shuster, O. Baptista, H. M. Brown, J. N. Dubash, F. F. Powell, and H. M. Busto.

The Attorney-General said the prisoner had been in the employ of the Spanish Procuration for twenty years. For many years his conduct was satisfactory, but about six years ago Father Torres had reason to be dissatisfied with him in connection with money affairs. In consequence prisoner was not allowed to collect rents paid in cash but only the rents paid by cheques. Further, the duty of paying a Macao firm for wine supplied to the Procuration was afterwards taken from him, the money being paid directly by Father Torres, the suggestion being that the prisoner had kept some of the money himself. Li Fat Tong, the deceased, was house boy at the Procuration and as he appeared to be supplanting the prisoner in the confidence of Father Torres there was a growing jealousy displayed by the prisoner, who had expressed his intention of going up the West River, where, he said, he could save more money. On the 14th November a little girl was going up the stairs of a house in Shelley Street when she saw the prisoner at the top holding a two-handed sword. He shouted to her to go away, which she did as she was frightened. The police afterwards entered the house and found the deceased and his mother lying on the floor dead. They had suffered terrible injuries. The man's throat was so severely cut that death was instantaneous. The prisoner himself had cut his throat from ear to ear with the sword and after his wounds had been temporarily dressed he was taken to the Government Civil Hospital. He arrived there in a state of collapse, due to the great loss of blood, but he eventually recovered and was now able to speak. When in the hospital ward-boy took off a letter which prisoner had tied round his leg. The letter said that the affair originated with Li Fat Tong, who had committed adultery with prisoner's wife. She had been ill-treated and Li Fat Tong wished to kill him and marry her. He therefore "raised his wicked hand to kill them. Those already killed die together with me." Counsel said the letter clearly showed that the prisoner carefully thought out the crime.

Evidence was then called in support of the opening statement.

The case had not concluded when the Court adjourned.

20th January.

THE SHELLEY STREET MURDER.

The trial of Lam Chan Wa, charged with murdering Li Fat Tong in a house in Shelley Street on the 14th November was continued.

The Attorney-General, (instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted and Mr. C. Dick Melbourne defended.

At the conclusion of the case for the Crown Mr. Melbourne addressed the jury for the defence. He contended there was no evidence to show that the prisoner committed the crime. Someone might have done it and the police found it more convenient to charge the prisoner than anybody else. It was quite possible that someone else had gone into the house and committed the murder; or Li Fat Tong might have attempted to murder the prisoner and committed suicide afterwards. If the jury found that the prisoner did commit the murder they must find that the prisoner was insane. Father Torres had said that the prisoner's father was not quite right in his mind, as he

was constantly muttering. There was also the evidence of Tan Sang, a Macao druggist, who said the prisoner's mother was mad in Macao, while another man had deposed to the prisoner talking about opening mines, cutting down forests, and all sorts of nonsense on the evening of the 15th November. He must have been mad to talk like that, because he had no capital. It was true that Dr. Atkinson had said that from the 14th November to the 2nd January the prisoner had shown no signs of insanity while in the hospital, but the doctor had said it was possible for homicidal mania to break out. Counsel concluded by asking the jury to say, if they thought prisoner was guilty, that he was insane.

The Attorney-General having replied, His Lordship summed up.

The jury, after an absence of five minutes from Court, unanimously found the prisoner guilty.

The prisoner, when asked if he had anything to say why sentence of death should not be passed, said he did not commit the crime, but he was told at the hospital that he did. The people had conspired against him to do him an injury. After speaking about the wine transactions in Macao prisoner said that before he "turned silly" he had thoughts of such a thing, but he could not now remember that he had done anything. He asked his Lordship to be lenient with him.

His Lordship passed sentence of death in the usual manner.

THE TRIAD SOCIETY CASE.

The Attorney-General intimated that he had filed information against the two men who were committed for trial at the Magistracy in connection with the illegal meeting of the Triad Society in the colony, and he asked leave to withdraw the information in order that the two men might be sent back to the Magistrate to be dealt with.

His Lordship granted the application.

This concluded the business of the Sessions.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3 p.m. on Friday, the 14th January.—Present: Messrs. R. M. Gray (Chairman), Herbert Smith (Vice-Chairman), N. J. Ede, J. J. Bell-Irving, T. Jackson, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting (held 17th December) were read and confirmed.

RESIGNATION.

Read letter from Mr. St. C. Michaelsen, dated 31st December, resigning his seat on the General Committee.

Resolved that a letter be written in reply expressing the regret of the Committee at losing Mr. Michaelsen's assistance and thanking him for the invaluable services he had rendered during the past ten years.

It was then unanimously decided to invite Mr. A. Haupt, of Messrs. Melchers & Co., to accept the seat vacated by Mr. Michaelsen.

THE PINNACLE ROCK FUND.

Replies to the Chamber's Circular letter on the above subject were produced from H.B.M.'s Consul-General at Shanghai, the Consuls at Ningpo, Foochow, Swatow, and Pakhoi, and a further letter from the Consul at Amoy; also replies from the Commissioners of Customs at Foochow and Amoy.

It was decided not to wait for further replies, but to act on the decision last come to and grant the several British Consuls a credit of \$300 each upon which to draw for rewards earned, advising them and also the Commissioners of Maritime Customs at the Ports originally named of the same.

STORM WARNINGS.

In accordance with the decision arrived at at the last meeting, a letter had, on the 23rd Dec., been addressed to the Government suggesting an early return to the system of meteorological signals formerly in use.

No reply had yet been received from the Government.

COMPLAINT OF OFFICIAL INTERFERENCE WITH TRADE IN KWANGSI.

Read further letter from Mr. F. W. Watts, dated 28th Dec., thanking the Chamber for the support accorded to him and enclosing copies of Mr. Consul Brennan's reply to his claim on the Chinese Authorities and of the claim itself.

Decided that, as no further communication had been received from the Consul since he wrote stating that the case was in hand, the Chamber must await developments before proceeding further in the matter.

THE PHILADELPHIA MUSEUMS.

Read letter from the Director of the Philadelphia Museums, dated 20th Nov., inviting the Chamber to become a member and send two delegates to be present at the meeting of the Advisory Board in June next.

As the membership entailed the despatch of delegates to Philadelphia, it was decided to reply expressing inability to accept the invitation but thanking the Board of Trustees for the compliment paid to the Chamber.

ABOLITION OF IMPORT DUTY ON

TEA IN BELGIUM.

Read letter from the Belgian Consul announcing that from the 1st January, 1898, the import duty on tea in Belgium would be abolished, a step which was regarded as very satisfactory.

POSTAL DELIVERIES.

The Vice-Chairman drew attention to the very unsatisfactory state of the Postal arrangements, both with regard to the closing of mails earlier than usual and the great delay in delivering mails arrived.

Resolved to make representations to the Government on the subject.

(Correspondence.)

STORM WARNINGS.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

23rd December, 1897.

Sir,—I am directed by my Committee to ask you to bring to the notice of His Excellency the Governor the unsatisfactory results of the present system of storm warnings. This system, which came into force at the commencement of the current year, is apparently only intended to show when strong winds are expected here; but the Chinese boating population, confusing these signals with the meteorological signals formerly used, take alarm directly the cone is hoisted and desert the shipping when there is no immediate necessity to leave the anchorage, thereby causing detention of vessels loading or discharging in port and serious loss and inconvenience to shipowners and shippers.

In the interests of the shipping community my Committee would respectfully suggest an early return to the system of meteorological signals in use from January, 1884, to December, 1896. Those signals, having been in use for thirteen years, were becoming gradually more and more understood and rightly interpreted by the boat and seafaring people as time went on, as is always the case, the Committee believe, when a system of signalling is introduced. They likewise conveyed to masters of ships intimations of the state of the weather at a distance on the voyages on which they were about to sail, information which the present storm warnings do not supply.

My Committee desire at the same time to draw attention to the great importance of any forecast made at the Observatory upon the receipt of telegrams indicating bad weather outside or approaching gales being furnished to the shipping hongs with all possible expedition.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,

Secretary.

To Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.

INTERFERENCE WITH TRADE IN KWANGSI.

1, Victoria View,

Kowloon, 28th, December, 1897.

Dear Sir,—I take the present opportunity of offering my sincere thanks to the Chamber for their support of my application to H.B.M.'s Consul at Canton, and of enclosing a copy of his reply on receipt of my claim for expenses incurred, also a copy of the claim itself.

In Mr. Byron Brenan's reply to the Chamber, as published in the *China Mail* of December 23rd, he remarks:—"I learn that there is an increasing export trade under transit certificates in the Kwangsi province, so that I expect to hear," &c.

Presumably Mr. Brenan must be referring to some passes taken out at Wuchow for cargo exported thence per steamer, as I believe no Chinaman has yet been daring enough to take a pass out for goods exported in native craft. Between the coalfield and the West River there are three likin stations, at neither of which has a transit pass ever been presented; in fact, the Chinaman who attempted to initiate such a course of proceeding would be bold to rashness. —I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

FRANK W. WATTS.

The Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

H.B. M's Consulate
Canton, 22nd December, 1897.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 20th instant I beg to state that at present I do not feel justified in presenting any claim on your behalf to the Chinese Authorities. Should it eventually appear that the Su Chuen Magistrate acted improperly and thereby caused you loss, the amount to be claimed as compensation can then be taken into consideration.—I am, sir, Your obedient servant,

BYRON BRENNAN,
Consul.

F. W. Watts, Esq., Kowloon

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
19th January, 1898.

F. W. Watts, Esq.

Sir,—I beg leave to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 28th ult. enclosing copy of the reply of Mr. Consul Brenan to your application and copy of the claim itself.

My Committee note your remarks with reference to possible trade under transit pass from North Kwangsi.

Pending result of the inquiries now being made by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, however, they are unable to move further in the matter.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

ABOLITION OF THE IMPORT DUTY ON TEA IN BELGIUM.

Hongkong, 30th December, 1897.

Monsieur le Secrétaire,—J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que les droits d'entrée établis sur le thé sont abolis en Belgique à partir du 1 Janvier, 1898.

Recevez, je vous prie, Monsieur le Secrétaire, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Le Consul de Belgique,
LEON VINCART.

Monsieur le Secrétaire de la Chambre de Commerce à Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
3rd January, 1898.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your esteemed letter of the 30th ult. informing this Chamber of the intention of your Government to abolish import duty on tea from the 1st January, 1898.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Léon Vincart, Esq. Consul for Belgium.

THE SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce held at the office of the Chamber on Monday, the 10th of January, 1898, at 4 p.m.

Present:—Messrs E. F. Alford (in the chair), C. J. Dudgeon, Wade Gardner, F. W. Koch, A. Korff, W. D. Little, J. H. McMichael, E. Shellim, A. Werth, and the Secretary.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

THE NEW MAIL CONTRACT.

The reply from the General Post Office to the letter addressed to the Postmaster-General on the 13th September calling attention to the inconvenience caused by the alteration of the

day of departure of the mails from Friday to Tuesday was laid before the meeting, and it was resolved to write again urging that the mails should close not earlier than noon on Tuesday, which would in a measure alleviate the inconvenience caused by the change of mail day. The letter from the General Post Office was ordered for publication.

DELAY IN THE TRANSMISSION OF TELEGRAMS BY THE CHINESE LINE.

A letter was read that had been received from the manager of the Imperial Chinese Telegraphs in reply to a complaint made about the delay in the transmission of telegrams, and the correspondence on the question was ordered for publication.

THE RIVER APPROACHES TO SHANGHAI.

It was decided to appoint a sub-Committee to deal with this subject, and to invite Messrs. Chapsal, Korff and Hewett to serve together with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Chamber.

REJECTION OF PINGSUEYS IN THE UNITED STATES.

A letter numerously signed by tea shippers was considered, and it was decided to comply with the request that the views expressed should be transmitted to the U.S. Consul-General and the New York Chamber of Commerce.

(Correspondence.)

THE NEW MAIL CONTRACT.

Regd. No. 440,454.

General Post Office, London.
18th November, 1897.

SIR,—I am directed by the Postmaster-General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th of September, calling attention to the inconvenience expected to be felt at Shanghai when the day of departure of the homeward mail is altered from Saturday to Tuesday under the new mail contract.

In reply I am to point out that, in framing the time-table for the China Mail Service, regard could not be paid simply to the departure of the mails from Shanghai and their arrival in London and vice versa. That service is a part of a much wider arrangement for the conveyance of mails between this country and India, Australia and the Far East. As regards the homeward mails, those from China, Hongkong and the Straits Settlements and those from Australia must converge at Colombo, and further these united mails must connect at Aden with the mails from India. The time-table for all these connected services, which has been approved by the Postmaster-General, was drawn up after very careful consideration and it is believed to be the most generally convenient which can in present circumstances be framed. To put the day of departure of the homeward mails from every colony and place affected three days earlier, while meeting the views of the Chamber of Commerce, would cause the greatest inconvenience at places other than Shanghai.

In the circumstances, the Duke of Norfolk can hold out no hope of modifying at present the time-table which has been adopted; but your representations will be borne in mind; and I am to express his Grace's regret that the mail service provided for under the new contract will apparently be attended with some drawbacks at Shanghai.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) S. WALPOLE.

E. F. Alford, Esq., Chairman, Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

DELAY IN THE TRANSMISSION OF TELEGRAMS BY THE CHINESE LINE.

No. 1158.

Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.
Shanghai, 16th November, 1897.

Dear Sir,—Numerous complaints have been made as to the delay of messages forwarded by your line, which necessitates the payment of the extra charge for urgent transmission, and the Committee of the Chamber direct me to call your attention to this matter, in the hope that an immediate rectification of the present state of affairs will prevent a complaint, based on specific cases, being brought to the attention of the Administration.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

DRUMMOND HAY, Secretary.

The Manager, Imperial Chinese Telegraphs, Shanghai.

Imperial Chinese Telegraphs.

Shanghai, 9th December, 1897.

Dear Sir,—In continuation of my letter of the 17th of November with regard to the complaints made by the Committee of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce, I beg to state that the matter has been submitted and duly considered by the Director-General and after careful investigation, he concludes that the delay of telegrams was not due to negligence or bad working of service; but on account of this year's enormous increase of traffic. In view of the above circumstances orders have been issued to put up extra wires on all the main circuits.—Yours truly,

KING LIEN-SHAN.

To the Secretary, Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

THE SALE OF INJURIOUS LIQUORS IN HONGKONG.

MEETING OF JUSTICES.

On 20th January a general meeting of the Justices of the Peace was held in the City Hall for the purpose of considering a communication from the Government on the subject of the resolutions recently submitted to them in regard to the sale of injurious liquors in Hongkong.

Hon. H. E. Wodehouse (Police Magistrate) presided and there were also present—Messrs. W. M. B. Arthur, J. A. de Carvalho, N. J. Ede, Dr. Hartigan, A. Shelton Hooper, G. C. Cox, W. Danby, A. Findlay Smith, C. Palmer, A. J. May, H. C. Nicolle, D. R. Crawford, Gershom Stewart, C. S. Sharp, D. E. Brown, J. H. Lewis, F. Dodwell, J. B. Conghtrie, R. M. Gray, H. M. Mehta, T. H. Reid, Dr. Clark, H. McCallum, Dr. Stedman, Rev. R. F. Cobbold, T. Jackson, R. C. Wilcox, Dr. Bateson Wright, H. L. Dalrymple, G. Sharp, E. W. Mitchell, H. Smith, C. Inchbald, A. W. Brewin, B. Layton, W. H. Percival, G. T. Veitch, J. Thurburn, etc.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, before commencing the proceedings I should like to know whether it is your wish that the meeting should be public. The reporters are here and they will take notes if you will permit them.

Mr. EDE—Certainly. I propose that reporters be admitted.

Dr. HARTIGAN seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN, after reading the notice convening the meeting, said—Before declaring the meeting open I should like briefly to explain the circumstances under which this meeting has been called. At a meeting of Justices held in November last for the purpose of considering applications for licences, the question of the sale of injurious liquors was brought forward and a strong wish was expressed that some means should be taken to control or suppress what was styled the pernicious traffic in poisonous liquors which is believed to exist in the colony. The traffic was pronounced to be injurious not only to our soldiers and sailors at large but also to many other individuals who partake of these liquors, intending to do so moderately and at last succumbing to their influence with loss of credit to themselves, a loss to their purses and a loss of promotion in the service generally. The meeting was followed up by an informal meeting of gentlemen consisting not only of Justices of the Peace but of officers of the Navy and Army, when the question was again considered and the result was that certain resolutions were drawn up and afterwards circulated for the consideration of the Justices of the Peace. I will now read those resolutions. There were present at the meeting—Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, C.M.G., Colonel Gordon, W. Y. Regt., the Honourable T. H. Whitehead, Lt. Colonel Clarke, O. D., Mr. C. S. Sharp, Mr. N. J. Ede, Dr. Clark, and Mr. J. J. Francis Q.C., and it was resolved—

(1.)—That there was no evidence to show that the wines and spirits sold in the colony were adulterated to any serious extent, that the existing law sufficiently provided for any such cases, but that there was good reason to believe great harm and injury was being done by the sale in licensed taverns of crude (imported) liquors of very inferior quality and by the supply of deleterious inferior Chinese spirits in brothels.

- (2.)—That in the interests of soldiers and sailors and of the community generally some steps ought to be taken to check the importation and sale of crude spirits of all kinds and to place some restrictions on the sale of Chinese spirits and liquors.
- (3.)—That the most effective means of checking the importation and sale of crude spirits would in our opinion be that the Government should establish a standard as to the maximum percentage of fusel oil (amylic alcohol) or other crude products of distillation to be allowed in any spirit and that the possession by any licensed person of spirits not in accordance with the standard should be made a punishable offence.
- (4.)—That an invariable part of the punishment should be the endorsement of the conviction on the offender's licence and that a second conviction within three years entailed a forfeiture of licence.
- (5.)—That the Government should undertake by its official experts an examination into the qualities and kinds of Chinese wines and spirits, the methods of manufacture, modes of adulteration, &c. and on the report of its scientific advisers, should fix some minimum standard of quality to which all Chinese spirits should conform. Adherence to this standard to be enforced by penalties on the same lines as those for imported crude spirits, and
- (6.)—That these resolutions be circulated among the Justices of the Peace and if approved of by a majority be forwarded to the Government for their consideration.

With regard to those resolutions, gentlemen, I think I may say on behalf of those who were responsible for them that it was thought they should not be considered as so many axioms beyond the scope of controversy, or as the final decision on the question, but rather that they should put into form an expression of the general nebulous feeling entertained on the subject, and that they should form a basis on which to approach the Government. I circulated the resolutions for the information of the Justices in the following terms:—"The undersigned has been requested to circulate the accompanying memorandum amongst the Justices of the Peace and will be obliged if they will express their approval of the resolutions which it is proposed to forward for the consideration of the Government.—H. E. Wodehouse, Police Magistrate." The result was that a large proportion of the Justices signified their approval of the resolutions. There was a small minority against the resolutions. The next step was to forward the resolutions for the consideration of the Government, which was done in the following letter:—

"The Magistracy, Hongkong,
14th December, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward for the consideration of the Government copy of resolutions relating to the sale of injurious liquors passed at an informal meeting held at Derrington on the 16th November, 1897, at which were present—[Here follow names of gentlemen present as given above.]

I have further to forward, in original, the endorsement of the general body of the Justices of the Peace to whom the foregoing resolutions were submitted.—I have the honour to be, &c.,
H. E. WODEHOUSE,
Police Magistrate.

To that letter a reply was received from the Government in the form of a minute by the Colonial Secretary, which was forwarded to you in the following letter:—

"The Magistracy,
Victoria, Hongkong,
15th January, 1898.

"Sir,—With reference to the forthcoming meeting of Justices of the Peace at the City Hall, it may be to your convenience to know that the Government requests that the Justices will appoint a Committee of their own body to consider the matter and make definite recommendations to the Government such as can be embodied in an Ordinance and are likely to secure the object aimed at.

The foregoing is the communication referred to in my letter convening the meeting.—I have the honour to be, &c.

H. E. WODEHOUSE,
Police Magistrate."

My own opinion with regard to that minute is that if it is left to the Justices to deal with the matter the result will not be so favourable as if the Government themselves took the matter in hand and formed a Committee or Commission with power to call witnesses and examine them. (Applause.) It is, however, for you yourselves, gentlemen, to decide that question. I think I need make only one more remark, and that is in regard to myself personally. As you are aware, by Ordinance the Magistrate presides at meetings of the Justices of the Peace held to consider applications for transfers or for licences. He is also generally used as a medium through which to convene a meeting, but the meetings once convened and opened I am of opinion that the functions of the Magistrate cease, and that after that he becomes merged in the general body of Justices. Therefore, in now declaring the meeting opened, I will call upon you to elect your Chairman. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN then left his seat.

Mr. EDE proposed that Hon. H. E. Wodehouse be appointed Chairman of the meeting.

Mr. MEHTA seconded.

Carried unanimously.

The chair was again taken by Hon. H. E. Wodehouse.

The CHAIRMAN—I have great pleasure in occupying the chair, and we will now proceed to discuss the answer of the Government which I have already read to you. I will call upon any gentleman present to make any remarks or move any resolution he may feel inclined to move.

In answer to Mr. CRAWFORD, the CHAIRMAN said—So far as my recollection goes—I have not the Ordinance with me now—there is no provision in the Ordinance regarding the sale of deleterious liquors. There is a provision for the sale of adulterated liquors, and adulterated liquors are defined in a particular way which does not include the quality of liquors such as we are now considering.

Mr. CRAWFORD—If there is no special provision for Hongkong we are under the ordinary English law.

The CHAIRMAN—That is not so. The English law is not in force here subsequent to 1843 unless it has been expressly put in force by Ordinance.

Mr. HOOPER—Is there any law in England at the present time which deals with this question?

The CHAIRMAN—I am unable to say.

Dr. HARTIGAN—As nobody else seems inclined to take the matter up I suppose I must, although I did not intend to do so. With regard to the Government proposal that we should form a Committee, it seems to me that it would be better to ask the Government to form a Commission, or, as has been suggested, that we ourselves, if we form a Committee, should ask the Government to give it the powers of a Commission. I do not think we should be able to carry out the object we have in view unless we get very ample powers—powers to take evidence and compel people to give evidence. If we were simply what I might designate an irresponsible Committee we probably should not be able to get a certain amount of conclusive evidence which we should require, as the Government have asked us to give them certain definite details from which they could found an opinion. Everybody knows that the question of drink in Hongkong is one of the very highest importance. You cannot walk out in the streets at night without seeing the results of the present regulations—or non-regulations—and any medical man here can vouch for the evil results. Certainly I know that naval and military officers can say that the results on their men produced by this particular liquor is very bad indeed, as it is not a mere case of drunkenness, but it is a case of frenzy. It is not a case of drunkenness for a day, but for a week. I have never seen any honest liquor produce this result even when taken in larger quantities. In order to settle this question we should ask the Government to give the Committee the full powers of a Commission as regards the taking of evidence that they think is necessary. This present trouble is, as you all know, of very long standing and I am sorry to say it is increasing. My own idea was that having called the attention of the Government to the matter, the functions

of the Justices were finished, but as the Government have not taken that view I see no reason why we should not meet them, and as to a certain extent they have endorsed our opinion that something ought to be done we certainly ought to meet them half way and if necessary appoint a Commission at once. The one objection taken to the original resolutions was that it was impossible to find any means of nailing this matter; but it seems to me that if we can prove that this evil is doing an immense amount of injury to those who some day may have to defend us the Government ought to take steps to remedy that defect, no matter what interests are involved. (Applause.) I may say that a gentleman who knows all about these cases told me that you can get quite a respectable drop of good honest Irish or Scotch whiskey for the same price as the poisonous stuff is sold at. If that is so, we can deal with the matter by means of the licences. We can compel licence holders to sell only genuine stuff and not spurious as it is to a great extent at present. Then as regards Chinese liquor, that is more easily dealt with, because we could say it should be kept up to a certain standard, and that could easily be accomplished by putting a provision in the Ordinance. The view we should take is that if the evil exists a remedy should be found. The Government is here to govern and if the Government cannot find a remedy we should take means to abolish an evil which is sapping the foundations of a great portion of the population. I beg to conclude by hoping that we shall come to some definite results to-day and not allow this question to be in abeyance as it has been to my certain knowledge for twenty years, and probably twenty years before that. (Applause.)

Mr. EDE—I see here an expert gentleman, Mr. McCallum. I should like to ask him whether it is possible to establish a standard that would not interfere with legitimate liquor and by which we should be able to ascertain if there were deleterious substances in the liquors sold.

Mr. MCCALLUM—I think it is quite possible to fix a standard, both for foreign liquors and for Chinese liquors.

Dr. HARTIGAN—I beg to propose the following resolution:—"That this meeting appoint a Committee of three members to inquire into the question of the working of the liquor laws of this colony, and that the Government add two members thereto and give such Committee the power of a Commission."

Mr. A. FINDLAY SMITH seconded.

Mr. COUGHTRIE—Mr. Chairman, do you think five members will be sufficient on the Committee? It might be necessary to have sub-Committees.

The CHAIRMAN—That is entirely a matter for yourselves to decide.

Mr. DALRYMPLE—Mr. Chairman, I beg to move the following amendment—"That if it is considered advisable by the Justices present that a Committee or Commission should be appointed, that that Commission should be appointed by the Government entirely." Personally I think that this is a matter which the Government should deal with. They are possessed of the necessary machinery, and I think it is the duty of the Government to take steps to prevent the importation and sale of injurious liquors.

Mr. THURBURN seconded the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN—I think I may as well say that when putting this resolution and amendment before you it will be well to bear in mind the fact that we have no facts before us at present on which we could ask for a Commission, and that it is possible that the Justices who have taken the initiative in the matter will be called upon to say in what way the evil exists. We have been told that it exists, but at present there is nothing before the Government to prove that it does, and I think that before they take such an important step as appointing a Commission they would like to be furnished with certain facts showing the nature of the evil. Before coming to a conclusion on this amendment and resolution I should like you to consider that point. It seems to me, gentlemen, that there will be no difficulty in obtaining sufficient grounds for the Government to go upon if we invite officers of the Navy and Army and the Mercantile Marine to give

us information on the matter. That information will be quite sufficient for the Government if it thinks proper to appoint a Commission.

Mr. COUGHTRIE—In regard to what you have just observed, the matter appears to me in exactly the same light. I think that certain facts should be brought out by the Committee of the Justices and represented to the Government. Upon these facts the Government may appoint a Commission with the fullest powers. My idea is that if the Justices elect a Committee of seven and take evidence there will be something for the Government to go upon. At present there is nothing to lay before the Government in a tangible form. I have a list of names here and I therefore beg to propose another amendment:—That Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, Rev. R. F. Gobbold, Dr. Hartigan, Mr. N. J. Ede, Mr. C. S. Sharp, Mr. D. R. Crawford, and Mr. H. L. Dalrymple form a Commission of seven to obtain all the information they can on this matter and report to the general body of Justices.

Mr. DALRYMPLE—May I ask if the Government would itself give powers to any Committee in the collation of facts?

The CHAIRMAN—Of course I am unable to answer that.

Mr. COUGHTRIE—We are here at the request of the Government for the purpose of making a recommendation to the Government, and I am of opinion—

The CHAIRMAN—I think the Government would like general facts.

Mr. COUGHTRIE—How can we get them unless we have the power? (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN—What I suggested was that the officers of the Navy and Army and the Mercantile Marine would be able to supply us with the necessary facts sufficient for the Government to take action upon.

Mr. COUGHTRIE—I am afraid the Committee would like wider information than that.

The CHAIRMAN—We will leave it to the Committee to deal with the matter as they choose.

Mr. MOSES seconded Mr. Coughtrie's amendment.

Mr. HERBERT SMITH—I should like to say that it seems to me that with every amendment we are getting further and further away from the main issue. (Applause.) The Justices have plainly pointed out to the Government what they consider should be done and I am sorry to say that the Government, as usual, have shirked their responsibility and referred the matter back to the Justices of the Peace. It seems to me that though we are all agreed that the Government have the necessary machinery and should have every wish to put an Ordinance in force to try and ameliorate this trade in inferior drink, that as the Justices have been distinctly asked they should act at once, and I would suggest to the gentleman who proposed the first resolution that he might amend it by moving that the Justices now appoint five gentlemen, whose names shall be submitted to the Government, to inquire into and report upon the traffic in these liquors on condition that they are given all the powers of a Government Commission. (Applause.) I may say that two members of the Government might be put on the Committee, as, for instance, Mr. Wodehouse and Dr. Clark or Mr. McCallum.

Mr. INCHBALD supported the suggestion.

Dr. HARTIGAN, the mover of the first resolution, said he consented to the alteration being made as suggested by Mr. Herbert Smith. The resolution would then read "that the Committee consist of five members and that the Government add two members thereto."

Mr. HERBERT SMITH—Leave that last part out. We will do it ourselves. The minute distinctly says the Government wish us to appoint the Committee. Why not do it?

Dr. HARTIGAN—I was informed that the objection to that would be that if we ask for the powers of a Commission we must have Government members.

Dr. STEDMAN—We can appoint two officials from amongst ourselves.

The CHAIRMAN then put Mr. Coughtrie's amendment to the meeting.

Four Justices voted for it and twenty-two against. The amendment was therefore lost.

The amendment proposed by Mr. Dalrymple was then put to the meeting and lost by 10 votes to 22.

The following original resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously:—"That this meeting appoint five members to enquire into the question of the working of the liquor laws of this colony, and that the Government be requested to give such Committee the powers of a Commission."

Mr. SMITH proposed and Mr. EDE seconded that the following Committee be appointed:—Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, Dr. Hartigan, Mr. H. McCallum, Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., and Rev. R. F. Gobbold.

Carried.

This was all the business and a vote of thanks to the Chairman having been passed the proceedings concluded.

THE BRITISH FLEET.

THE SOUTHERN DIVISION AT CHUSAN; THE NORTHERN DIVISION AT CHEMULPO.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
Shanghai, 25th January.

The *Grafton* with Rear-Admiral Fitzgerald on board, the *Narcissus*, *Undaunted*, *Rainbow*, *Daphne*, *Phœnix*, *Redpole*, and *Iphegenia* are at Chemulpo.

The *Centurion*, with Admiral Buller on board, the *Alacrity*, *Handy*, *Hart*, *Immortalité*, *Algerine*, and *Humber* are at Chusan.

The *Pique* is at Shanghai.

MARITIME DISASTER AT SHANGHAI.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
Shanghai, 25th January.

The Chinese tugboat *Kongnam* was burnt and beached in this harbour before daylight today.

THE SITUATION.

Although the political situation in the Far East still seems to be in an unsettled condition no uneasiness appears to be entertained in the London money market, as is indicated by the latest quotations, which are as follows:—5 per cent. Chinese Loan, 101; 5 per cent. Japanese Loan, 101; Consols, 112½.

Letters have lately been received in Hongkong from officers on board British vessels at present in Chemulpo. The writers all speak most feelingly of the biting frosts they have experienced, 27 degrees of frost being the usual state of the thermometer. Cruising under these circumstances must appear to the ordinary landsman to have its drawbacks, but each warriorship to her taste.

THE "POWAN" ASHORE.

About eight o'clock on Wednesday evening, 19th January, the steamer *Powan* stuck on the mud at the second bar in the Canton River as she was coming to Hongkong. The weather was hazy at the time. On Thursday morning the passengers were transferred to the steamer *Honam* and brought to Hongkong, where they arrived in the afternoon. Just now the tides are very low in the river, but the *Powan* was got off on Thursday night. No damage was done to the steamer and the service was not interrupted, as it was maintained by the other steamers of the line.

THE "POWAN" AND "KWANGLEE" IN COLLISION.

REMARKABLE ESCAPES.

About ten minutes past one o'clock on Tuesday morning, 25th Jan., the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao steamboat Company's steamer *Powan* collided with the China Merchants Company's steamer *Kwanglee* at the latter Company's wharf. The crack and crash of the collision caused such a tremendous noise that many people were disturbed in their slumber, and their first thoughts were doubtless of an earthquake or at least a thunderstorm.

The *Kwanglee* was stationed at the wharf at the time and she was to have left port at eight o'clock yesterday morning, but the accident

prevented her from leaving, as she had to go into dock to have considerable repairs effected. She was struck right aft by the forward starboard side of the *Powan*, and her wheel box and gear were shattered, her rudder head smashed and the rudder broken, part of the gunwale was carried away, a boat splintered, and other damage was done. The wooden wharf, too, had a number of its supports wrecked, causing about thirty or forty feet of the wharf to take a precipitate dip into the water.

The *Powan* of course had her share of damage and she is at present in the Dock Company's hands for extensive repairs. The forward part of the boat on the starboard side was split into matchwood, pillars supporting the upper deck were snapped, two sleeping cabins, which luckily were empty at the time, were crushed out of shape, and a protective iron plate was doubled up.

Five firemen on the *Powan* had a miraculous escape from death. The collision stove in the starboard anchor, which broke through the woodwork and fell quite close to five firemen who were sleeping in the forecabin. These men were buried beneath the anchor and the splintered timbers, and when after about five minutes' work they were rescued it was found that beyond a few cuts and scratches they had sustained no injuries. A lady and gentleman occupied a cabin on the port side, but fortunately they escaped unhurt, while the Chinese passengers aft suffered no injuries at all.

We do not know if anyone is to blame for the collision, but there is considerable difference of opinion on a very important point. It was a dark, clear night and lights could be easily discerned. The captain and second officer were on the bridge of the *Powan* as she was steaming slowly up the fairway to her wharf. We understand that they say no light was shown at the stern of the *Kwanglee* and that she was projecting about thirty feet from the wharf and so hid the light which was shining at the end of the wharf. The consequence was that it was not until the *Powan* was close upon the *Kwanglee* that the danger was observed. It was then either too late to avoid a collision or the wheelman misunderstood an order given by the captain. On the other hand an officer on the *Kwanglee* says that his boat was lit up like a house afire.

THE NEW PUBLIC OFFICES.

The following further papers respecting the proposed new Government offices were laid before the Legislative Council yesterday:—

SECRETARY OF STATE TO GOVERNOR.

Downing Street,
9th October, 1897.

Sir:—I have the honour to forward, for your consideration, the enclosed copy of a report by the consulting architects on the plans of the proposed new Government buildings at Hongkong.

2.—In view of this report I consider that the general arrangement of the buildings should be further carefully considered by you, and if you are prepared to recommend the adoption of the suggestions of Messrs. Webb & Bell, I request that you will send home revised outline or sketch plans to be again referred to the consulting architects.

3.—These plans should show clearly the general arrangements proposed, but need not give details or be highly finished up; the details can be proceeded with when the further report from the consulting architects is received.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

SELBORNE.

for the Secretary of State.

Governor Sir W. Robinson, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

MESSRS. ASTON WEBB AND F. INGRESS
BELL TO CROWN AGENTS.

19, Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, S.W.,
September 15, 1897.

Gentlemen,—Having carefully considered the matter and after two interviews with Mr. Gale, we beg to report as follows:—

We are of opinion that the best method of providing a secure foundation for the buildings is by piling with hard wood piles as proposed.

But we would urge that instead of grouping the piles under each column, they should be placed at equal distances along the frontage, that their heads should be connected by a grillage in the usual way, and that the Portland cement concrete laid thereon should be continuous. By this construction there would be less likelihood of a dislocation of the entablatures of the colonnade, by the subsidence of any individual point of support.

With reference to the question of cost, we are of opinion that a less costly style of building cannot properly be adopted, considering the uses and importance of the buildings. Granite is the local, and, indeed, almost the only available material, and as the cost of granite, worked and set, is in Hongkong only the price of Bath stone in England, we do not think its use, for the proposed Government buildings in any way extravagant.

We may as well say here that we have had a careful detailed estimate prepared and priced in accordance with the Government schedule in local use; although the cost appears an astonishingly low one, for buildings of this character, our inquiries have all tended to confirm the official estimate.

With reference to the plans under consideration, we think it right to say that considering the difficulties of the site and area, under which they have been prepared, great ingenuity has been shown in meeting the requirements as far as possible, but we cannot consider them an altogether satisfactory solution of the problem.

The order of procedure in the law courts in Hongkong does not differ in essentials from that which obtains in England, and provisions requisite for the orderly and convenient working of the establishment are, generally speaking, the same. There should be a central hall, large, lofty, well-lighted and well-ventilated, for the use of the general public having business with the courts, and to which the public should be almost entirely restricted. From the hall, direct access should be had to each court through intervening lobbies. There should be at least two waiting rooms for witnesses immediately wanted. There should be a "Bar" corridor and reading room which would be limited to the use of the Bar or, at most, shared by the judges. There should be a solicitors' corridor, with suitable consultation rooms which are most desirable for use in the intervals of the sitting of the courts. There should be a prisoners' entrance, and detention rooms, whither they could be directly brought for trial, and whence they could reach, by a special route, the steps leading immediately to the dock, and by which they could also be removed after sentence.

The Judges and the Bar should have equally distinct entrance and exit from the purlieus of the Courts. The several accessories should be arranged for the particular use of judge, bar, jury, witnesses, and public, and placed accordingly. We submit that in respect of some of the above points, the plans, as they stand, are defective and in others deficient.

We are given to understand that the Registrar's Department and the space allotted to the bailiffs and interpreters are necessarily placed on the ground floor of the court block and that the area allotted to them cannot be reduced. This being so we can only come to the conclusion that the area of plot No. 1 is insufficient for the proper housing of the legal offices. A glance at the plan will show that the arrangements are already somewhat congested and that there is no adequate space available for the proper disposition of the necessary rooms as above indicated, and would render any future extension impossible.

Plot No. 2 is, on the other hand, somewhat sparsely occupied. The handsome western frontage with its double-storied colonnade is for the most part a screen to small and unimportant offices, and the entire centre part of the upper floor, on the north front, is a mere shell to protect from the direct rays of the sun the skylight, which gives a borrowed light to the entrance hall of the Post Office. We cannot but regard the interruption of the public footway by the raised portion outside the delivery office, as an inconvenience to the public which should be avoided.

It will therefore be seen that, while plot No. 1 appears insufficient for its purpose, plot No. 2 is somewhat in excess of the requirements,

and we would suggest for consideration the following schemes:—

Scheme A.—Placing the courts and their accessories on plot No. 2 and the Post Office, &c., on plot No. 1. This would necessitate the raising of a central portion of the Post Office building an extra storey which could be reached by lifts, and taking into consideration the expensive character of the foundations the further utilisation of the site, in this manner, seems an economical one.

Scheme B.—The plots Nos. 3 and 4 (on the accompanying sketch), now the property of the Bank, could perhaps be acquired, and, if so, their cost would be less now than after the other available building and space has been occupied.

We would propose that the Sanitary Board and the Department of Public Works should be located on plot No. 3, the Colonial Secretary and Treasurer on plot No. 4, the Post Office on plot No. 1, and the Law Courts, &c., on the ampler plot No. 2.

This would concentrate the Government Establishment, giving sufficient room for each and facilitate their natural intercourse. It would avoid overcrowding which is especially undesirable and probably leave some margin for any extension which may hereafter be found desirable.

Pending some further discussion of the question from these points of view, it is perhaps premature to offer any remarks on the details of the designs, which you have referred to us.

We return herewith the six drawings and the original papers forwarded to us with your letter of July 27th.—We are, &c.,

ASTON WEBB & E. INGRESS BELL,

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS ON COLONIAL OFFICE DESPATCH NO. 198 OF 1897, REGARDING THE NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICES, &c.

1.—The report of the consulting architects practically condemns the plans submitted *in toto*. With regard to the Courts much of the accommodation which they consider essential is absent, and the space on plot 1 is too limited to admit of the construction of such a Court and connected chambers, corridors, and offices as they deem requisite, while future extension would be impossible. For various other reasons they report as strongly against the proposed buildings on plot 2.

2.—They then proceed to make two suggestions: Scheme A to place the Courts and their accessories on plot 2, and the Post Office, &c., on plot 1. Scheme B to acquire two more plots, and distribute the various buildings required over a greater area.

3.—Both proposals necessitate the preparation of entirely fresh plans.

I am not now in a position, in the absence of Mr. Gale, to undertake the preparation of such plans even in outline and unfinished as suggested by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, but would ask to be informed if scheme B would, under any circumstances, be entertained by His Excellency the Governor.

4.—As I find that no provision has been made in the estimates for 1898 for the proposed buildings, I conclude there is no immediate hurry for new designs; and if His Excellency is of opinion that the first proposal of the architects which they call scheme A should be adopted, I would ask that the matter be allowed to stand over till Mr. Gale's return in April next.

5.—I venture, however, now to propose a scheme which has not, as far as I am aware, been put before His Excellency yet, for meeting the undoubted urgent want of the colony in the matter of better Courts, Post Office, and offices for certain other of the departments of the service.

6.—The arrangement and condition of the present offices is very fully described by the committee appointed to report on the subject in 1896, and with that description I concur except as regards the Public Works Offices. I do not consider these offices badly arranged or too small for present requirements, and it is quite possible to improve the lighting of the side of the building now deficient in that respect.

The description of the buildings occupied by the Courts, the Post Office, the Land Office, the Treasury, and the Registrar General is by no means too strongly condemnatory. It must be

patent to all that "the requirements of the colony have entirely outgrown the accommodation at present available."

7.—The proposals I now wish to submit to His Excellency are briefly as follows:—

(a.) To adopt the recommendation of Messrs. Aston Webb and Ingress Bell and devote plot No. 2 on the new Praya to the new Courts and their accessories, calling on those gentlemen to prepare a suitable design, worthy of the colony and of this prominent site.

(b.) To devote the site now occupied by the Courts and the Post Office to a new Post Office and Treasury.

(c.) To acquire "Beaconsfield" permanently for the accommodation of the Education Department, the Registrar General, and the Sanitary Board—the Colonial Secretary the Auditor and the Public Works Department continuing as at present to occupy the offices in St. John's Place.

8.—There seems to be no reason whatever why the Courts should be in close proximity to any of the other Public Offices, while the arrangements I propose would bring those offices together which, for the facilities thereby afforded for the transaction of public business, should be intimately connected.

On the other hand, there is much to be urged in favour of keeping the Post Office on the present site; it is very central, close to the Banks, the hotels, the busiest part of Victoria, and the pier at which all mails and passengers will land.

9.—The Harbour Department should, I think, certainly have new offices on the Reclamation in front of the present Harbour Office, and I note that the estimated cost of the building is \$110,000.

10.—The question of store accommodation for the Public Works Department is pressing, but should, I think, be dealt with separately as it in no way affects the other proposals.

11.—Financially my proposals would work out as follows:—

Cost of new Courts, &c., on plot No. 2	\$400,000
Cost of new Post Office and Treasury	150,000
Cost of "Beaconsfield"	80,000
Cost of new Harbour Office	110,000
Total	\$740,000

On the other side:—

Sale of plot No. 1, 33,724 square feet at \$10	\$337,240
Sale of site of present Land Office and Crosby Store, 16,078 square feet at \$10	160,780
Rents now paid or to be paid next year for offices capitalized	80,000
Total	\$578,020

Net cost of proposed new Offices to Government say \$162,000

12.—In estimating the cost of the new Courts and new Post Office I have been guided by the cost per cubic foot and per square of floor of buildings already erected and being erected on the new Praya. These are handsome buildings of first class workmanship, and I think their cost may be taken as giving a good idea of what the Courts would cost. I learn the Club buildings, including all fittings, &c., cost \$170,000.

13.—Should my proposals meet with the approval of His Excellency the Governor I would suggest that the consulting architects be furnished with an exact plan of plot No. 2, and photographs of the New Club, Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's Offices, and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and elevations of those buildings in order that, if possible, the designs for the new Courts may harmonize with the adjacent buildings.

The design for a new Post Office could, I consider, be made locally; from its position, no striking architectural effects would be necessary or desirable. The elevation should follow that of the new buildings in Queen's Road, such as the Chartered Bank, and the internal arrangement of public rooms and offices could probably be better decided on the spot.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

R. D. OMSBY,
Director of Public Works.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE, AT A MEETING HELD ON THE 13TH JANUARY, 1898.

Present:—The Hon. The Director of Public Works (Chairman), Hon. The Colonial Treasurer (T. Sercombe Smith), Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Hon. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G.

Subject for consideration:

"The Scheme of the Director of Public Works for New Government Offices."

The Chairman reminded the Committee that at a previous meeting no resolution had been proposed, but the subject had merely been discussed and its consideration postponed. Since then a different scheme for the new Government Offices had been prepared by an Honourable Member of the Committee and circulated, and he left it for the Committee to decide whether they could discuss that scheme as well seeing that it had not yet been before His Excellency and referred to them for report.

The Committee decided that both schemes should be considered.

After discussion, it was proposed by the Honourable the Treasurer and seconded by the Honourable Mr. Belilios that the scheme of the Director of Public Works be approved by this Committee, and its adoption recommended to His Excellency the Governor.

The Committee divided with the following result:—

Ayes.

The Hon. the Treasurer.
The Hon. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G.
The Chairman.

Noes.

The Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G.
The Hon. T. H. Whitehead.

The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

The following protest was handed in by the Honourable T. H. Whitehead.

Mr. Whitehead desired that his protest should be recorded against the Honourable E. R. Belilios, C.M.G., being permitted to second and vote, the honourable member being directly and pecuniarily interested in the question under consideration, the question being that the Government should purchase "Beaconsfield," a property owned by the said Mr. Belilios, and Mr. Whitehead further desired to refer, in support of this protest, to May's "Parliamentary Practice," 9th Edition, page 420, where the rule as to Members of Parliament is laid down in the plainest language. It reads:—

"In the Commons it is a distinct rule that no member who has a direct pecuniary interest in a question shall be allowed to vote upon it, but in order to operate as a disqualification this interest must be immediate and personal and not merely of a general or remote character. On the 17th July, 1811, the rule was thus explained by Mr. Speaker Abbott: 'this interest must be a direct pecuniary interest and separately belonging to the persons whose votes were questioned and not in common with the rest of His Majesty's subjects or on a matter of State policy.'"

Mr. Whitehead also desired to refer, if further authority is necessary, to Buckley's Companies Acts, 7th Edition, page 542, where it is laid down that although no director shall vacate his office by reason of his being a member of any firm having contracts with the company of which he is a director, "nevertheless he shall not vote in respect of such contract or work, and if he does so vote his vote shall not be counted."

R. D. ORMSBY,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 14th January, 1898.

MR. CHATER'S PROPOSAL.

The scheme I now beg to propose for the future accommodation of the Government Offices is as follows:—

GENERAL SCHEME.

1. To adopt the recommendation of Messrs. Aston Webb and Ingress Bell and to build the Law Courts and accessories, including Land Office, on plot No. 2, i.e., the back and larger block in front of the City Hall.

2. To build on plot No. 1, i.e., the front lot on the Praya Reclamation, a block of Offices, the ground floor being for Post Office, first floor

for Treasury, Assessor, and Sanitary Board, and second-floor for Public Works Department.

3. The existing Government Offices, St. John's Place, to be occupied on first floor by the Colonial Secretary, Auditor, Council Chamber, &c., as at present, and the ground floor, now occupied by the Public Works Department, to be given to the Registrar General's and Education Department.

4. A new Harbour Office to be built on the Praya Reclamation in front of the present Harbour Office, as recommended by the Director of Public Works.

5. My reasons for proposing a scheme differing somewhat from that recommended by the Director of Public Works are as follows:—

ADVANTAGES OF SCHEME.

6.—The Post Office would be on the new Praya facing the harbour and in the natural site for same; mails can be expeditiously and safely landed and despatched at a wharf opposite the site, which is not usually used by launches and ferry boats, these going to the Ice House Street and Pedder Street Wharves.

7.—The proposed site, and not the present position, of the Post Office will, in the course of a short time, be in the very centre of all the Banks, Insurance Offices, and principal European and Indian merchants of the colony, and these are by far the principal users of the Post and not the Chinese, who will in a few years entirely surround the present Post Office and Law Courts. The proposed site would be convenient for the Military and Navy, and also those frequenting the Law Courts and Land Office, who constantly require various descriptions of stamps.

8.—By placing the Treasury, Assessor, Sanitary Board, and Public Works Department in the same building, communication, which is frequent between these Departments, is rendered easy and the transaction of public business greatly facilitated.

The Public Works Department will also have in the proposed new offices ample light, which is very deficient in the present rooms.

9.—It is very desirable that a building on the front block, facing the harbour, should be at least three stories high or the building will be dwarfed by the adjoining blocks on either side which are four stories.

10.—By utilizing the ground floor of the Government Offices, St. John's Place, the Education and Registrar-General's Departments are brought to the same building as the Colonial Secretary's, which would be very convenient, as the latter offices are held by the same officer.

FINANCIAL.

11.—As regards the financial part of the question, I will take, as far as possible, the figures given by the Director of Public Works, and it will be found that my proposed scheme is at, practically, the same cost as that of the Director of Public Works, while it centralizes all the Government Offices and provides new buildings in a good position in place of detached offices and old buildings.

12.—Cost of new Law Courts, &c., on plot No. 2 as estimated by the Director of Public Works	\$400,000
Cost of new Post Office and Treasury as estimated by the Director of Public Works	150,000
In proportion to the above costs, allow for additional storey to Post Office, say	40,000
More handsome elevation on New Praya and more expensive foundations, say	50,000
Cost of new Harbour Office as estimated by the Director of Public Works	110,000
Total	\$750,000

On the other side:—

Sale of land occupied by Land Office and Crosby's Store, as estimated by the Director of Public Works, 16,078 square feet at \$10	\$160,780
Sale of land occupied by Post Office and Law Courts, 25,867 square feet at \$12	310,404
Rents now paid or to be paid next year for offices as es-	

timated by the Director of Public Works capitalized ... 80,000

Total..... \$551,184

Net cost of proposed new offices to Government ... \$199,000

13.—The net cost shown above of \$199,000 is against the net cost shown by the Director of Public Works of \$162,000 for his scheme, and I venture to think that the convenience to public and accommodation gained would justify a far larger expenditure.

14.—I have taken the value of the site of the present Land Office and Crosby Store, 16,078 square feet at \$10 per foot as given by the Director of Public Works, but for the site of the present Post Office, I am confident that \$2 per foot more would be obtained, owing to the superior position and frontage.

15.—As for the value of plot No. 1 on the new Praya Reclamation, put down at \$10 per foot by the Director of Public Works, I fear that it will be a considerable time before so large a piece of ground can be sold at such a price.

16.—I wish to point out that no allowance appears to have been made for the sale of the ground at present occupied by the Harbour Office, which land is in a most valuable part of the city and is worth about \$15 per foot; the area is about 8,000 square feet and therefore the net cost to the colony of the new buildings should be reduced by \$120,000.

17.—I wish to record my opinion that the plans for the new Public Offices should be made by local architects of standing who, I think, by their experience of local requirements and construction, are far more likely to produce a satisfactory and economical building than any firm of architects in England. The work already executed in this city seems to me quite proof enough of the ability of the local architects to undertake the proposed buildings which, I may mention, are not so large as the blocks now being built on the Reclamation.

C. P. CHATER.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION AT ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE.

The annual prize distribution took place at St. Joseph's College on 20th Jan. There was a large attendance, Sir J. W. Carrington, LL.D., C.M.G., presiding. The Papal Delegate to India visited the College for the first time. Amongst others present were Bishop Piazzoli, Father Martinet, Father Torres, Mr. J. J. Francis, &c.

Before the distribution of prizes took place the College Choir sang two choruses and then four of the upper class boys debated on the question of "Can Arbitration be made a substitute for War." The affirmative was taken by E. A. Pugh and E. J. Noronha and the negative by L. E. Guterres and J. C. Logan.

The following report for 1897 was then read by the Principal of the College:—

In reviewing the scholastic year of 1897, I find that 228 pupils were received during the year, and that there was an average monthly attendance of 185. We presented 132 pupils for the Government Grant-in-Aid Examination, and the results, though not up to those of former years, was on the whole satisfactory. In the lower Standards, where the examinations have always been conducted by the Inspector himself, the results were very good; in the upper Standards, where the examinations are entirely written, the percentage was somewhat lower than those of former years, but we hope this little severity will cause the larger pupils to set a higher value on the Government examination, and study better to prepare themselves for it.

We are particularly pleased with the results obtained in the Oxford University Local Examinations. There were only seven boys in the colony who passed the Senior examination, and five of these belong to St. Joseph's College; and of the fifteen Juniors who passed six belong to St. Joseph's. Though the Preliminary boys were not so successful as the others, yet we had a fair proportion, as two out of the five who passed in the colony belong to St. Joseph's. We may attribute this success, in some measure, to the stimulus which His Honour the Chief Justice, gave to the pupils by

his advice and encouraging words at the last distribution of prizes.

We find that debating is a good means to make the pupils read, and also to develop their elocutionary powers and give them a taste and desire to continue their studies. The short debate you have just heard is only a reproduction of one which took place in the class room in which 11 students participated.

The system of weekly reports continues to be a great source of emulation and it is gratifying to see that most of the parents take a great interest in them.

The two prizes for the best essays on "The Command of the Sea," and "The Use of the British Navy," so kindly offered by the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League, were also a source of emulation. Nine students wrote on the subjects, and the essays of Master E. Noronha were adjudged to be the best with those of Masters B. Talara and F. X. Ribeiro as good seconds. The two Belilios Scholarships continue to be a great benefit to the School, as they serve to keep the pupils longer at their studies.

The pupils continue to take an interest in the military drill and in cricket and football.

In conclusion, we have to tender our sincerest thanks to the Hon. E. R. Belilios for his two scholarships and other prizes; also to the Navy League and its Honorary Secretary, and to Sir J. W. Carrington, LL.D., C.M.G., Messrs. T. Jackson, A. G. Romano, D. Noronha, Dr. A. P. Carvalho, E. H. Mody, and the other gentlemen who have so generously contributed towards our prize fund. We also thank Mr. A. W. Brewin, Inspector of Schools, for having adjudicated the Prize Essays on "The Command of the Sea" and "The Use of the British Navy."

After presenting the prizes Sir JOHN CARRINGTON addressed the pupils in an encouraging tone. He said it gave him great pleasure to again present the prizes at St. Joseph's College and have the opportunity of speaking a few words of encouragement to the boys—words which he hoped they would carry away with them and which, if observed, might possibly do them good. Sir John then delivered to the boys an instructive address impressing on them the importance of an attentive and painstaking school career to fit them for a successful professional life when their school days were over. He then paid a high tribute to the teaching staff of the College, and urged the boys to do all they could to lighten the task of their teachers by paying the strictest possible attention to their duties. The task of a teacher was a very hard one. He could speak with authority on that point, as he once was the teacher of a class of twenty-five boys. Since then he had changed his vocation, and he must say that, although he loved the boys, he would rather be engaged in hearing Synagogue cases for a whole year than teach that class again. (Laughter). In conclusion Sir John addressed a word of encouragement to those pupils who had not received prizes and hoped they would not be disappointed at their non-success but regard it as an incentive to work with increased energy during the ensuing school year.

Father DE MARIA then said—As Manager of the school I beg to thank you, Sir John Carrington, for your very great kindness in coming to distribute the prizes to the children. It is the second time you have honoured the school by your presence and as the Brother Director in his report has pointed out, your first visit was not without profit and advantage to the boys. This further proof of your Honour's interest in the school will be an additional encouragement and stimulus to our pupils, young and old, and is a source of very great gratification to the Brother Director and his assistants. I desire to convey to you their very hearty thanks and acknowledgments. It is also my most pleasing duty to welcome to St. Joseph's the Delegate to India of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII, who has honoured the College by his presence to day and to thank him for his very great courtesy in accepting our invitation to be present on this occasion. He will soon find himself at the feet of the Holy Father, and we entreat him to assure His Holiness of our love and devotion towards his person and office. To His Lordship our own Bishop our most hearty thanks are clearly due. His zeal in the cause of

education and his paternal solicitude for our well-being are ever more and more fully illustrated and displayed. I have also to thank all our good friends and supporters for their presence.

The following is the list of prize winners:—

Standard I.—C. de Carvalho, A. da Luz, L. G. Cordeiro, A. Marti, A. Rozario, A. Neves.

Standard II.—J. Rozario, J. Carmo, Lo Pou, C. Franco, A. I. Xavier, Kwock J. Lum, D. Alonço, M. Larcina.

Standard III.—J. Gaskell, F. Casademunt, F. Simoes, J. Wohlters, H. Silva, L. Remedios, G. Rozario, A. Gutierrez, N. Botelho, J. Arila, R. Passos.

Standard IV.—C. Afah, C. Remedios, A. Barradas, C. Almarin, J. Yvanovich, G. Victor, J. C. Guterres, L. Fat Choi, A. Manso, J. Victor, P. A. Rozario.

Standard V.—J. Melendreras, G. Remedios, C. Remedios, A. Hahn, H. Taylor, E. Rozario, F. Remedios, A. Botelho, L. C. Xavier, Ng Luck Kee.

Oxford Preliminaries.—H. Costa, H. V. Biard, W. Paley.

Oxford Juniors.—F. X. V. Ribeiro, B. Talara, E. A. Pugh, M. Simoes, L. E. Guterres, M. Hopun, J. C. Logan, F. Silva.

Oxford Seniors.—E. J. Noronha, A. A., J. P. Xavier, C. O'Toole, A. A., I. Franco, A. A., E. M. Xavier, A. A.

A prize presented by Sir J. W. Carrington, LL.D., C.M.G., for aptitude, diligence and good conduct was awarded to C. L. O'Toole, A. A.

THE INDIAN YARN TRADE.

The following is the reply of Sir George Cotton, President of the Bombay Millowners' Association, to the representation lately made from here by Chinese merchants dealing in Indian yarn for working the mills short hours:—
Forbes Street, Bombay,
3rd January, 1898.

Hung Kee Phow Hhow, President of the meeting of Chinese merchants dealing in Indian Yarn, c/o Messrs. Framjee Hormusjee & Co., Hongkong.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favours of the 7th and 9th of December, the latter acknowledging receipt of my Committee's telegram in reply to the one received from you. I am circulating your very interesting letter of the 9th amongst the members of the Committee so that they may fully understand your views of the present position of the trade. Personally I fear that now Bombay mills have to compete with those in China and Japan short time for Bombay mills only would seriously injure our trade as the increased cost of production consequent on curtailment of working hours would be a premium to our competitors and tend to an expansion of the number of mills already at work on your side. I am hopeful that low prices will so increase consumption in India that our shipments will be smaller than hitherto and that your stocks will be considerably reduced once the Northern ports are again open.

Trusting that the New Year will bring you and all our friends in China prosperity.—I am, sir, yours very faithfully,

G. COTTON.

THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAM-BOAT CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the board of directors to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders to be held at the office of the Company, on Saturday next at noon:—

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the report and statement of accounts for the half-year ending 31st December last.

After paying running expenses, salaries, premia of insurance, repairs, and all other outgoings, there remains, including \$29,974.01 brought forward from last account, the sum of \$133,344.58 at credit of profit and loss account. From this amount, the directors recommend that a dividend for the half-year of 8 per cent. on capital, or \$96,000, be paid to shareholders, and that the balance of \$37,344.58 be carried forward to new account.

The gross earnings of the steamers during the six months under review have been fully up

to the average, but the very large increase in the price of coal has materially reduced the net results.

During the half-year the *Heungshan* and *Powan* have been docked for the usual annual repairs and Government survey and all the steamers are in good running order.

The properties mortgaged to the Company have been re-valued by Messrs. Palmer and Turner whose valuations show them to be ample security for the sums advanced.

The retiring auditors, Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and F. Henderson, offer themselves for re-election.

E. R. BELILIOS, Chairman.

Hongkong, 21st January, 1898.

31st Dec. 1897.	ASSETS.	\$	c.
Value of 4 steamers and 4ths of <i>Fatshan</i> ...		812,250.00	
Do. of 2 steam-launches ...		50,000.00	
Do. of wharves, hulks, moorings, &c.		27,917.07	
Do. of properties at Wuchow and Kongkun ...		7,787.22	
Do. of lighters <i>Sun Lee</i> and <i>Wo Lee</i> ...		15,000.00	
Do. of coal, stores and spare gear ...		18,781.34	
Do. of furniture ...		750.00	
Do. of shares in public companies ...		295,427.23	
Do. of Chinese Bonds ...		1,034.48	
Property foreclosed ...		8,000.00	
Loans on mortgage ...		685,700.00	
Short loan on security ...		50,000.00	
Fixed deposit with the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation ...		21,844.36	
Cash with the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation on current account ...		21,544.70	
Remittance to London account insurance premium for 1898 ...		18,580.64	
Interest accrued to date ...		1,104.52	
Sundry debtors ...		9,687.25	
		\$2,028,388.81	

	LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
Amount of capital, 80,000 shares of \$15 each, fully paid-up ...		1,200,000.00	
Amount of refund of capital of \$5 per share on 10 shares unpaid ...		50.00	
Amount at credit of depreciation and insurance fund ...		600,000.00	
Amount of credit of equalization of dividend fund ...		9,000.00	
Amount at credit of investment fluctuation account ...		14,148.00	
Unclaimed dividends ...		9,930.00	
Hongkong wharf special account, amount received from Government, to be expended on new wharf ...		21,844.36	
Sundry creditors ...		40,070.94	
Amount at credit of profit and loss account ...		133,344.58	
		\$2,028,388.81	

31st Dec. 1897.	Dr.	\$	c.
To amount paid for repairs:—			
To steamers ...	\$10,858.73		
To wharves and lighters ...	84.97		
		10,943.75	
To directors and auditors' fees ...		2,750.00	
To balance to be appropriated, viz:—			
Dividend at 8 per cent. on \$1,200,000, \$96,000.00			
To be carried to new account ...	37,344.58		
		133,344.58	

30th June, 1897.	Cr.	\$	c.
By amount brought forward from last account		29,974.01	
31st Dec. 1897.			
By net earnings of steamers ...		86,577.37	
By interest on investments ...		30,332.45	
By transfer fees ...		154.50	
		\$147,038.33	

DEPRECIATION AND INSURANCE FUND			
31st Dec. 1897.	Dr.		\$ c.
To balance		600,000.00	
30th June, 1897.	Cr.		\$ c.
By amount at credit		600,000 00	
EQUALIZATION OF DIVIDEND FUND.			
31st Dec. 1897.	Dr.		\$ c.
To balance		9,000.00	
30th June, 1897.	Cr.		\$ c.
By amount at credit		9,000.00	

Much amusement was created among the *Rattler's* men quartered at Tientsin, on discovering seats thoughtfully provided by the local carpenter in the new sentry boxes. Chinese ideas evidently could not grasp the awful reality of "sentry go" duty without any sit-down pidgin, and Tomatkins Jacktar, or whatever the professional cognomen of the marine may be, was immensely tickled on discovering the evidence of Celestial consideration in his new shelter. If the carpenter had only been consulted in the matter of measurements and pattern, he would probably have suggested, "spose make littee more long, can makee lie down. More better."—*Peking and Tientsin Times*.

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LIMITED.

The following is the ninth report of the Board of Directors to the ordinary meeting of shareholders to be held at the company's offices, Victoria Buildings, at noon, on Friday, 28th January:—

Gentlemen,—The Directors have now to submit to you a General Statement of the Company, and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1897.

The net profit for that period, including \$56,559.49, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, amount to \$268,356.26. From this amount an interim dividend of \$2.00 per share has already been paid, and it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$2.00 per share, making a total dividend of 8 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital, and after writing off directors' and auditors' fees there remains a balance of \$57,856.26 to be carried forward to the credit of a new Profit and Loss Account.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. M. D. Ezekiel, D. R. Sassoon and S. C. Michaelson having resigned their seats, Messrs. A. J. Raymond, D. Gubbay, and A. Haupt were invited to join the Board in their places respectively. These appointments now require confirmation.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. F. Henderson and Mr. A. Coutts who now retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

J. J. BELL-IRVING,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 11th January, 1898.

31st Dec., 1897.	LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Paid-up capital	2,500,000.00	
Reserve fund	1,250,000.00	
Accounts payable	890,934.49	
Balance of profit and loss account	168,356.26	
	\$4,809,290.75	

31st Dec., 1897.	ASSETS.	\$ c.
Cash	1,882.23	
Amount advanced on mortgage	1,989,788.28	
Amount invested in property	2,774,366.32	
Furniture account	3,718.79	
Accounts receivable	39,535.13	
	\$4,809,290.75	

30th June, 1897.	Dr.	\$ c.
To interim dividend of 4 per cent. for the half-year	100,000.00	
31st Dec., 1897.		
To charges account, including legal expenses	21,926.34	
To repairs to house property	12,690.58	
To advertising account	418.75	
To fire insurance account	5,869.80	
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—		
Directors' fees	\$ 5,000.00	
Managing directors' fees	5,000.00	
Auditors' fees	500.00	
Final dividend of 4 per cent. for the half-year	100,000.00	
Balance to be carried to new account	57,856.26	
	168,356.26	
	\$309,261.73	

1st Jan., 1897.	Cr.	\$ c.
By undivided profits, 1896	56,559.49	
31st Dec., 1897.		
By interest on mortgages	\$148,798.40	
Less—Interest on loans payable	47,977.70	
	100,818.70	
By rent account	127,897.19	
By commission account	9,145.98	
By scrip fees	227.00	
By profit on sale of properties	14,613.37	
	\$309,261.73	

31st Dec., 1897.	RESERVE FUND.	\$ c.
To balance	1,250,000.00	
1st Jan., 1897.		
By balance	1,250,000.00	

A Wuchang despatch reports that the Vice-roy Chang Chih-tung has been empowered from Peking to raise a force of some 30,000 men, to be drilled by British officers. The personnel of the new corps will be picked men from Kiang-pah (Kiangsu), Ningpo (Chekiang), and Weihai Honan.—N. C. Daily News.

THE KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the ninth report of the Board of Directors to the ordinary meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's offices, Victoria Buildings, at 3 p.m. on Friday 28th January:—

Gentlemen,—The directors now submit to you a statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1897.

The balance of profit and loss account for the year, after writing off all charges and expenses amounted to \$6,324.40. The directors, therefore, recommend that a dividend of one dollar per share be paid, which, after writing off the directors' and auditors' fees, will leave a balance of \$164.40 to be carried forward to credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. E. Jones Hughes and J. H. Cox retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Thos. Arnold and W. H. Gaskell, who retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

F. HENDERSON, Chairman.

Hongkong, 14th January, 1898.

31st Dec., 1897.	LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Authorised capital, 6,000 shares of \$50 each—		
300,000, of which 5,960 allotted \$30 each paid up,	178,800.00	
Accounts payable,	397.29	
Dividends outstanding,	612.10	
Balance of profit and loss account,	6,324.40	
	\$186,133.79	

31st Dec., 1897.	ASSETS.	\$ c.
Cash,	3,152.17	
Cost of property,	182,042.17	
Accounts receivable,	949.45	
	\$186,133.79	

31st Dec., 1897.	Dr.	\$ c.
To charges,	342.49	
To Crown rent and rates,	1,839.00	
To fire insurance,	2,273	
To commission to agents,	82.46	
To repairs,	662.00	
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—		
Dividend of \$1.00 per share,	\$5,960.00	
Directors' Fees,	150.00	
Auditors' Fees,	50.00	
To be carried to new profit and loss account,	164.40	
	6,324.40	
	\$10,054.31	

1st Jan., 1897.	Cr.	\$ c.
By balance brought forward,	266.12	
31st Dec., 1897.		
By rents,	9,193.59	
By interest,	138.74	
By scrip fees,	32.00	
By profit on sale of debentures of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.,	423.86	
	\$10,054.31	

THE WEST POINT BUILDING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the ninth report of the General Agents to the ordinary meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's Office, Victoria Buildings, at 11.30 a.m. on Friday, 28th January:—

Gentlemen,—The General Agents now submit to you a statement of the affairs of the Company, and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1897.

The net profits for the year, including the amount brought forward from the previous year, amount to \$17,061.06, and after writing off director's and auditor's fees, it is proposed to pay a dividend of one dollar and twenty-five cents per share, and to carry forward the balance of \$886.06 to credit of new Profit and Loss Account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. M. D. Ezekiel having resigned on leaving the colony, Mr. A. J. Raymond was invited

to join the Board in his stead, and this appointment now requires confirmation.

The Honourable C. P. Chater, C.M.G., and Honourable J. J. Bell-Irving retire by rotation but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Fullerton Henderson who now retires and offers himself for re-election.

A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Secretary to the Hongkong Land Investment & Agency Co., Ltd., General Agents,
The West Point Building Co., Limited.
Hongkong, 11th January, 1898.

31st Dec., 1897.	LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Paid-up capital	500,000.00	
The China Fire Insurance Co., Limited, mortgage on the Company's property	110,00.00	
Accounts payable	686.58	
Balance of profit and loss account	17,061.06	
	\$627,747.64	

31st Dec., 1897.	ASSETS.	\$ c.
Cost of property	611,830.80	
Cash	15,395.28	
Accounts receivable	521.56	
	\$627,747.64	

31st Dec., 1897.	Dr.	\$ c.
To fire insurance	2,002.76	
To charges	382.91	
To Crown rent and rates	4,495.18	
To legal expenses	108.00	
To repairs to buildings	695.81	
To interest	6,092.71	
To commission to agents	1,153.40	
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—		
Directors' fees	\$500.00	
Auditor's fee	50.00	
Dividend of \$1.25 per share	15,625.00	
Balance to be carried to new account	886.06	
	17,061.06	

1st Jan., 1897.	Cr.	\$ c.
By balance brought forward	1,239.10	
By rents	30,665.72	
By scrip fees	87.00	
	\$31,991.82	

THE GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following report has been received from the manager at the mines:—

Mount Macdonald, 31st December, 1897.
My last report was dated 14th inst. Since then the Xmas holidays have greatly interfered with the progress of the work.

Prospecting Shaft Gold Lease 37 has reached a depth of 58 feet from the surface. The reef formation still extends from hanging to foot wall and consists of quartz and mullock mixed with no free gold so far.

The Great Eastern Main Shaft is now down to 96 feet from the top set of timber or 104 feet from the brace. This is very satisfactory indeed and I trust that we shall reach the 200 feet by end of March, when we shall go for the reefs. At present the ground shoots splendidly and I hope that our calculations will not be upset by harder ground.

Zulu Main Shaft will have to be continued in its old underlie, as the water is getting too strong and the angle too awkward to work in; we shall, if the formation does not cut back again, crosscut for it later on. At present we are busy breaking the five tons for shipment to Germany; we have nearly all at grass and splendid stone it looks, too, with free gold showing often, every bit as good as the stone which yielded 4 ounces by assay in Sydney.

The Caledonian Main Shaft is on softer ground at present. The measured depth to-day is 66 feet from the top timber, or 72 feet from the surface, so that we shall not be long in reaching 100 feet here also.

A small reef is coming in, but whether it will make into something remains to be seen.

In breaking the five (5) tons from the Caledonian for shipment to Germany, the old drive at the 50 feet level in the old main shaft had to be cleared a little, revealing the large lode to better extent than when I could examine it in September. It is fully 6 feet wide and

the stone we are breaking not less than 1 ounce. Here also a large quantity of ore has been left in the slopes as not good enough for the old and primitive ways of treating it.

PRESENTATION TO MR. E. A. RAM BY THE HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

On 21st January Mr. Justice Wise, President of the Hongkong Cricket Club, presented Mr. E. A. Ram with a handsome gold watch as an appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Club by Mr. Ram. There was a large attendance of members.

In making the presentation Mr. Justice Wise said—Gentlemen, owing to pressure of business Mr. E. A. Ram has been compelled to resign the honorary secretaryship of the Hongkong Cricket Club. However much we regret that decision we cannot overlook the fact that business comes before pleasure and even before cricket, and therefore we had to make other arrangements. At the same time we all thought that the services rendered by Mr. Ram were not sufficiently recognized by a simple vote of thanks recorded in the minute book, and we thought there ought to be some more substantial recognition of his services and a list was therefore sent round. It is now about five or six years ago that Mr. Ram took over the duties of honorary secretary on the resignation of Mr. A. K. Travers, and although he succeeded a very popular secretary I think there can be no doubt that no man could more ably and more worthily have fulfilled the duties of that office. (Applause.) From my experience of the colony and its ways I may assure you that the office of honorary secretary of this Club is not a bed of roses. You cannot please everybody; you must ruffle a few. What with getting up matches at the end of the week and vain and futile efforts to keep dogs and little children off the ground I assure you the office is no sinecure. There can be no doubt that the unselfish way Mr. Ram has given his time and trouble to the Club has entitled him to the gratitude of every member of it. (Applause.) Everybody is satisfied when a thing works smoothly, but we are apt to overlook the difficulties experienced by the man behind the scenes. The man behind the scenes pulls the strings which make the figures work, and that man is, in our case, Mr. Ram. (Applause.) As an appreciation of the way in which Mr. Ram has met those difficulties and also in appreciation of the invaluable services he has rendered this list was circulated. The result of that list is this watch and I propose on behalf of you to present this watch to Mr. Ram. (Applause.) Mr. Ram, on behalf of the members of the Hongkong Cricket Club I beg to offer you this watch as a token of our regard for you as a man and as a slight recognition of the services you have rendered to us and to tender you our hearty thanks for the time and trouble you have expended on the work. I hope the watch will turn out as good a time-piece to you as you have been honorary secretary to us. (Applause.)

In accepting the gift Mr. Ram said—Mr. Wise and gentlemen, I have to thank you very sincerely for the eloquent speech which our President has made on this occasion. The no small success which has attended the administration of the club during the years I have been hon. secretary has been due in a great measure to the Committee, which has always been a very strong and representative one, and I cannot accept this gift without acknowledging that a very great part of the merit belongs to the Committee. I cannot say any more except to thank you for the handsome—I might almost say the absurdly handsome—present you have given to me. (Applause.)

Cheers for Mr. Ram concluded the interesting proceedings.

The Norwegian barque *Aspasia* has been wrecked near the islet of Menado Tua, off the West Coast of Celebes. The wreck and cargo were sold at Menado for sixty-four guilders. The *Aspasia* was built at Arendal in 1892, and was of 595 tons burden. She was commanded by Captain Jebson. The crew were rescued by the steamer *Reael*.—*Straits Times*.

CRICKET.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB V. HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

The followers of the sphere and the spheroid met with a decisive reverse in their encounter with the Cricket Club on Friday and Saturday last; but they had at least the consolation of taking an active part in a game which produced the record score for one innings in Hongkong. It was perhaps a part of the harmony of things that a local cricket phenomenon should synchronize with the solar eclipse that made China New Year Day celebrated.

Having won the toss the "ruggers" and "sockers" began well by compiling 60 for the first wicket, which was that of Peel, who gave a promising display. The second wicket fell at 68, after which came a grand stand by Campbell, who was not well settled, and Lethbridge of the King's Own. For a time both held complete mastery of the bowling, which underwent constant ineffectual changes till Lammert was tried at the barracks end. His first four overs were treated with scanty respect, full pitches and long hops resulting in half a dozen fours. He was, however, kept on in faith and in his fifth over dismissed Campbell for an excellent 82. After this taste of blood, he was not to be resisted and in quick succession bowled Ward, Lethbridge, and Dewar, of whom the second made his debut in Hongkong cricket by knocking up a hard hit and well played 90 in which he is to be heartily congratulated, more especially as he also played a capital second innings of not out 20. The partnership of Campbell and Lethbridge had yielded 112 runs. The only remaining batsman to offer a resistance was Cox, who, by the aid of two sixes, rapidly hit up 29 runs. The innings closed just before the call of time for 248, of which only four were byes. With three wickets down for 180, a huge score seemed in prospect, as the bowlers proved quite harmless; however, the turning point came with Lammert's first wicket, which cost 30 runs to capture, after which he obtained five wickets for the trifle of 31 runs. Upon the drawing of stumps, the President, in the presence of a large body of members, made a presentation to the ex-honorary secretary, the interesting function evoking a neat speech and much enthusiasm.

On a pitch that had not in the least deteriorated, a start was made by the Club at 10.30 on Saturday.

A good stand was made for the first wicket, but this was put into shade by subsequent events. At 152 Vallings joined Dyson, who was then thoroughly at home, having played himself in by sound tactics. By tiffin time the opponents' score had been passed. Dyson then being 91 and Vallings 60. After the usual interval, Vallings was immediately busy, but Dyson was rightly very cautious. The chaplain was the first to go for a hard hit but not unlucky—72, having helped to add 130 runs. Langhorne joined Dyson, who shortly achieved a century by a four stroke, which was followed by a big drive for 6, which was his expiring effort, he, like Vallings, being yorked by Ward, who had taken up the bowling for the first time after tiffin. Everyone is pleased to see the making of a century, but to cricketers who know what a sound style Dyson has acquired and how unlucky he has been in batting, his success came as no surprise and was then acknowledged as a fitting triumph. One hard chance in the long field was the only fault with the innings, totalling 109 out of 220 made whilst the batsman was at the wickets. Dyson's mantle fell upon Langhorne, who gave a chanceless exhibition of cautious cricket succeeded by brilliant hitting. Powell and Anderson were useful partners, staying with the gunner whilst 75 and 125 runs respectively were added. With the score at 524 Langhorne's career, which started at 285, was closed by a ball from Lethbridge, after he had launched out into a sixer over the screen and had run up a magnificent 129. His success was very well received and gave great satisfaction to all who know how keen he is and how frequently he practices. In fact it was gratifying that men in constant practice like Smith, Gillett, Campbell, Langhorne, Dyson, Anderson, and Cox should all have shone in the batting line. Anderson played a rollicking innings of 40 and bagged two fine sixers, achieving a very popular success. Naturally

the attention is concentrated on the two century makers, but every other batsman got double figures and must rest content with that inward satisfaction which is if anything better than public praise. The innings realised the huge total of 562, which is nearly one hundred ahead of the next highest score made in the colony in one innings, and an echo of the mighty scores now obtaining south of the equator. Lethbridge with three wickets for 30 and Ward with three wickets for 50 were far the most successful bowlers, their analysis reading very well in an innings of over half a thousand. The Football Club went in again and by very fast scoring compiled 125 in three-quarters of an hour. Cox, apparently as fresh as ever despite a long day's outing, contributing 63 out of 92 in double quick time thanks to the leniency of the wicket keeper.

By kind permission of Col. Retallick and officers, the Band of the H. K. Regt. played in attractive style during Saturday afternoon.

Appended are the score and analysis:—

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB	
1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
Peile, R.N., c Langhorne, b Vallings..... 25	
G. D. Campbell, H.K.R., l.b.w., b Lammert..... 82	c Mast, b Lammert... 27
H. G. Moberley, H.K.R., c Mast, b Gillett..... 2	
Lethbridge, K.O.R., b Lammert..... 90	not out..... 20
A. G. Ward, b Lammert..... 5	
P. A. Cox, c Langhorne, b Lammert..... 29	b Mast..... 63
Lt. Dewar, R.N., b Lammert..... 1	
E. R. Morris, c Langhorne, b Gillett..... 4	not out..... 2
Dr. J. M. Atkinson, c Smith, b Lammert..... 5	c Vallings, b Mast... 0
P. G. Davies, R.A., l.b.w., b Vallings..... 0	
A. E. M. Head, R.A., not out..... 0	b Powell..... 7
Extras..... 5	Extras..... 6
Total..... 248	Total..... 125

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.					
Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wickets.
Sercombe Smith 11	1	51	—	—	—
H. A. Gillett... 28	10	59	—	—	2
Vallings..... 12	3	24	—	—	2
E. Mast..... 5	1	15	—	—	—
Langhorne..... 6	—	30	—	—	—
Lammert..... 12	1	61	—	—	6

Second Innings.

Dyson..... 6	—	48	—	—	—
Powell..... 6	1	27	—	—	1
Mast..... 5	1	16	—	—	2
F. Lammert..... 5	—	28	—	—	1

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

Lt. Gillett, R.N., b Lethbridge..... 37	
T. Sercombe Smith, c Morris, b Campbell... 47	
Capt. Dyson, b Ward..... 109	
Lt. Egerton, R.N., b Davies..... 14	
Rev. G. R. Vallings, b Ward..... 72	
Capt. Langhorne, R.A., b Lethbridge..... 121	
E. Mast, c Peile, b Ward..... 12	
S. Powell, c Cox, b Morris..... 28	
A. Anderson, b Lethbridge..... 40	
F. Lammert, b Cox..... 17	
J. F. A. Hastings, R.N., not out..... 19	
Extras..... 46	
Total..... 562	

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wickets.
Lt. Dewar, R.N. 22	5	66	—	—	—
Morris..... 16	1	94	—	—	1
P. A. Cox..... 21	3	75	1	—	1
P. G. Davies... 16	—	70	—	—	1
Lethbridge..... 11	1	30	—	—	3
Campbell..... 18	2	79	—	—	1
A. G. Ward... 15	4	50	—	—	3
Peile, R.N..... 4	—	32	—	—	1
Moberley..... 4	—	20	—	—	1

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

MACFARLANE CUP.

The tie for the above cup at the quarterly meeting has now been played off and the holder of the cup is

Mr. E. M. Knox, 101. 15. 86.

The Captain's cup for February will be played for between the 5th and 7th of that month.

We (*N. C. Daily News*) understand that Mr. Marty has definitely purchased the steamer still under charter to Bennertz and Co., and that arrangements are being made for the immediate delivery.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The sixth race for the championship took place on Sunday, the 16th instant, three boats starting in the second class and six in the first, the course being from the Police Pier to mark boat off Green Island, to Cosmopolitan Dock buoy, to Channel Rocks, and home; all to star-board.

A light easterly breeze and a flood tide carried the boats (the second class with the usual ten minutes start), to within about a mile of the Green Island mark, where a dying wind and a calm gave a chance to the laggards to close up. The whole of the nine yachts worked round the mark in a bunch, not three lengths separating the leader from the last. The easterly breeze immediately coming on again set everybody racing in grand style, the Maid Marian by early making a long board towards the Hong-kong shore and avoiding the pinch across the tide turning Cosmopolitan buoy first. The times at this mark were:—

	H.	M.	S.
Maid Marian	3	31	45
Chanticleer	3	34	0
Meteor	3	27	12
Active	3	28	30
Dart	3	28	40
Payne	3	28	50
Phoebe	3	29	3
Ladybird	3	29	40
Sybil	3	31	50

The breeze held, and at Kowloon Point the Chanticleer had picked up a little on the leader, who got away again at North Point, but was finally passed at the Rocks. Times:—

	H.	M.	S.
Chanticleer	4	43	10
Maid Marian	4	44	30
Meteor	4	49	5
Ladybird	4	50	55
Dart	4	51	10
Payne	4	51	45
Phoebe	4	51	52
Active	4	58	0
Sybil	5	1	10

A long run home against a strong ebb, with a falling air, closed the whole fleet up again, the Maid passing the Chanticleer just before the finish and winning by thirteen seconds after a four hours' sail, and saving closing time by a bare seven minutes.

The absence of the Erica was regretted, and she no doubt missed a favourable opportunity of adding to her leading score. Finishing times:—

	H.	M.	S.
Maid Marian	5	21	51
Chanticleer	5	22	10
Meteor	5	23	31
Ladybird	5	23	43
Phoebe	5	24	42
Dart	5	28	40
Payne	5	25	58

Marks gained are:—

A CLASS.		B CLASS.	
Erica	38	Ladybird	48
Maid Marian	32	Payne	36
Meteor	9	Dart	4
Chanticleer	6		
Active	4		
Phoebe	1		

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE NEW POST OFFICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
DEAR SIR,—Though the letter signed by "Enquirer" which appeared in your issue of 17th inst. disposes, to the satisfaction of the writer, of the important question of site of the new Post Office, I venture to think that there are many who (without the unworthy motives hinted at by "Enquirer") regret the view you have taken in your leader of the 14th inst.

The example mentioned of the General Post Office, London, is not analogous, as practically no mails arrive by water, while all mails do so arrive in this Colony, and as the Government possesses a site on the water front it appears to me that following the example of Singapore, the new Post Office should be built at the

waterside and save the risk and trouble of conveying the mails to the Queen's Road.

Further, do you not think that in say ten years practically all European business firms will be located between Pedder Street and, Murray Pier and between New and Old Prayas and that the Queen's Road will be entirely occupied by shops and principally by Chinese?

Also the Post Office is chiefly used by European firms, who will be nearer the site on the New Praya than the present position of the Post Office, and also it will be more convenient for the Army and Navy. It has been suggested that for Chinese there should be a branch Post Office in the centre of their business premises and near the sea, say the present Harbour Office.

I have not the time to write more fully on the subject, but wish merely to say that the question is not to be decided in so off-hand a manner as by "Enquirer," and that there are many who think the retention of the Post Office in a position which will eventually be away from the principal business firms to be a mistake, and I trust the matter will not be settled without the fullest publicity.—Yours truly.

Hongkong, 18th January, 1897.

IT GETS WORSE!
WHAT? THAT UNSPEAKABLE POST.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]
SIR,—Formerly when the Postal Authority thought fit to close any of the home mails before the usual hour he notified it by express and also got the newspapers to mention the fact. People have for so many years been accustomed to 11 a.m. for letters that they never think of looking at the postal notices for the regular mails. In business it is always important and sometimes a vital matter that a firm should not miss its mail and therefore a departure from the usual hour should always be notified amongst the new advertisements in the newspapers, at which every one looks. Many persons never see "expresses," but it should be "expressed" also, and the papers should be asked to call special attention to the advertisement; indeed prominent attention ought to be called in every possible way to the change. The Post Office charges for what it does, and therefore should not, for the sake of saving \$3 or so, neglect to do it properly. It should do as any other buying and selling institution would do. This neglect was especially awkward and dangerous in the case of today's mail owing to the arrival of the inward mail late last evening, which entailed a great deal of hurried work to get replies off this morning. If you will back this up with the weight of your authority as the public voice you will be commended by every business man in Hongkong and possibly the Postmaster General or Particular may be shamed into giving the matter his

ATTENTION!

Hongkong, 19th January, 1898.

BRITISH GIRLS IN DANGER IN SHANGHAI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
SIR,—I have just read the article in your issue of 19th inst. entitled "British Girls in peril in Shanghai" and hope you will kindly allow me space in your widely read paper to throw some light on the case of two of these girls and make a few comments on the case.

In April last I left London for the East per P. & O. steamer *China*. Amongst the second-class passengers was a Chinaman, belonging to the staff of the Chinese Minister recalled on account of the Sun Yat Sen kidnapping case, and two young English girls who were his companions. The youngest girl was supposed to be his wife; the other was, or believed herself to be, the wife of one of the secretaries, who, with another Chinese friend, came down to see the party off. Doubtless this secretary or possibly some one in a higher position, financed the transaction, whatever it may have been.

I had been many years in China and was pretty well versed in the ways of the wily heathen and those of his European advisers and

abettors, so waited till I could get the measure of our Chinese passenger and be sure of his game, which I pretty accurately surmised, before trying to persuade the victims to free themselves from the trap that they had fallen into.

It was the second day out before I found a fair opportunity to interview the Chinese kidnapper, and a few minutes conversation soon convinced me that he was one of the servant or "boy" class, as I had guessed from the first. I eventually found out, towards the end of the voyage, that he fulfilled the exalted position of junior cook to the Legation and that his Shanghai address was a cook-shop (or native eating-house) in one of the back streets of that city. On my first addressing him he pretended to be vastly pleased to find that I had been in China, but my queries proving that I knew more about China and Shanghai than was likely to suit him, he retired into the stolid "no savey English" which is the Chinaman's refuge when finding that his knavery is likely to be exposed. For the remainder of the voyage he studiously avoided me—although I often caught him casting furtive glances in my direction—and never knew much English when I was around, though I found out he could speak English well enough to other passengers, especially to three young missionaries, who were charmed to find that he was a Christian, or professed to be one. It was from one of the latter that I got the wily Celestial's card, with the address of the cook-shop written at the back of it; the young fellow who showed me this informed me that the address at the back of the card was his Celestial friend's home.

The day before arriving at Gibraltar I resolved to screw myself up to the unpleasant task of persuading the girls that they were being taken out to China under false pretences and that they had better, at all costs, return from Gibraltar by another steamer, even if they had to throw themselves on the generosity of the P. & O. agent to give them a free passage, for I guessed that they would not have the means to pay for one themselves. I found an opportunity to speak to the one supposed to be the wife of the secretary, and as soon as I touched on the subject of the deception they were under I was roundly abused for my pains and told to mind my own business. Later on the voyage, I found that this young woman was the daughter of the English housekeeper of the Chinese Legation in London and both herself and her friend had been married to their (nominal) Chinese husbands according to the usual rites observed in the Church of England. Anyone who knows anything of Chinese customs would know that these men must have had wives in China and that the English marriage service they had gone through was little better, under the circumstances, than a farce. The Chinaman, it appears, was well supplied with funds, but he was careful never to let the girls have a cash. There is no doubt that a man in his position, whose salary was only a few dollars a month, could not possibly pay £45 (forty five pounds sterling) for a passage for his wife and that therefore the passage of these two girls was paid by others and he was merely their agent to see the two girls safely landed at Shanghai, while the men who financed the business went by another steamer.

I think that no steamer company should grant a passage to any English girl accompanying, or accompanied by a Chinaman to China or elsewhere, and some action should be taken by the British Authorities to ensure this.

It was only too evident to myself what the fate of these poor girls would be, but I found that they would not listen to counsel and that therefore I was powerless to help them.

I note, by the account in the paper, that the poor girl in question was left, in the depth of winter, in an empty house with only a night-dress as her sole covering or article of apparel. This speaks volumes both as to the diabolical cruelty and meanness of the Chinese concerned and to the purity of the girl thus left to her fate, for had she not been too pure to fall in with their views and be their willing tool she would not have been left thus.

As for the English secretary of the Chinese Legation, he is beneath contempt, for he obtained this position and keeps it by truckling to the Chinese; he lends himself most actively

and basely to the kidnapping of a Chinese subject in London and the attempted smuggling of him abroad under false pretences, and he fails to prevent the kidnapping of English girls for conveyance to China. Surely it is time that Her Majesty's Ministers ceased to recognise him in any official or other capacity—for it is thought that he dictates, with other of China's European advisers, their policy in China—and that they advised Her Majesty against receiving him at her drawing rooms.

It is reported that another of China's foreign advisers obtained his influence with the Chinese, and ousted a predecessor, by supplying a young French girl to Prince Kung for a concubine.

BRITISHER.

Hongkong, 20th January, 1898.

THE HISTORY OF THE KOWLOON CONCESSION.

Post hoc propter hoc is an argument much in favour with children and uncivilised peoples. It has been much in evidence recently in China. The raid on Kiaochau by the German fleet took place certainly after the murder of the missionary priests at Yenchow. As we showed last month it had no more to do with that murder than have the Goodwin Sands with Tinterden steeple. It had been arranged long before, and the fleet had actually refitted for the purpose before the news arrived. It was perhaps natural that the German Government should seek to put forward the murder as the cause of their action, but it lowers our faith in human nature to find the statement reiterated by the Emperor, who did not hesitate to call Heaven to witness his veracity. Last mail we have been treated to a reassertion of the old argument. The British Government, we are told in so many words, have annexed a portion of the Kowloon peninsula as a set off against German interference in Shantung. The statement is as baseless as the other. The first public announcement came indeed after the action of the German fleet, but the rectification was really as old almost as the hills. It was mooted at the time when the British Government gave permission to China to establish a Custom House at Kowloon, to levy dues on native craft conveying goods to and from the colony to the interior. By the complaisance of the British authorities the collection of the foreign Customs has been considerably increased, and it was natural that that in return something would be done. The principle of extending the somewhat confined area belonging to the colony on the Kowloon side of the harbour was in fact acknowledged as a reasonable request by Peking, but British Ministers were dilatory, and sleep was preferred to action at the legation. Sir Nicholas O'Connor, however, took the matter up and a convention was drawn up and agreed to extending the colony across the hills which dominate Hongkong to a transverse line to be drawn from Deep Bay to Mirs Bay. The justice of the claim was never called in question by the Chinese, nor indeed, seeing that valuable consideration had been given, could it be. At the urgent solicitation of Portland Place the affair was, however, postponed pending the completion of the treaty with Japan, the Chinese pleading that it might be permitted to remain over for a more "convenient season." Such convenient season, however, in the case of nations, as of individuals, rarely comes. Sir Claude MacDonald took up the affair where it had been left by his predecessor, and again brought affairs to an issue. But meanwhile came the occupation of Kiaochau, and what might have seemed the convenient season again proved the contrary.

The late announcement has, as we have seen, been taken as an indication that that arrangement at Kowloon has been carefully labelled as England's *quid pro quo* for the occupation of Shantung. The whole affair is a strange comment on the absurdity of one British Government after another throwing discredit on its own minister at Peking in response to a suggestion from Portland Place. Had it not been for this the cession would have been completed some four years ago, and no opening for misconception have been left.—*Shanghai Daily Press.*

BRITISH GIRLS IN PERIL AT SHANGHAI.

There are at the present moment four young English girls in Shanghai, possibly more, the youngest only seventeen years old, who were married in London to Chinamen, some of them members of the Chinese Legation in London, brought out by mail steamers as the wives of these Chinese and deserted here, exposed to perils which we know of, but need not particularise. One of them, quite a young girl, was left in an empty house with nothing in the world but her night-dress, her supposed husband having stripped the house of everything. She was discovered by a kind-hearted neighbour, who heard her crying and sobbing for twelve hours continuously. What can become of these poor girls but one fate? They have no friends here, no money, and they are afraid to go home and tell their friends there what has happened to them.

There is a British subject acting as Secretary to the Chinese Legation in London, though it is surprising to us all out here that after the Sun Yat-sen case our Foreign Office should continue to recognise him. Does he know of the marriages that the younger members of the Legation contract at home? No one knows better than he what fate the girls these men marry are coming to. Does he warn their friends and do everything in his power to prevent these sacrifices? Do these friends make enquiries for themselves from people who know something of China? Somebody must be responsible for this crime, and we cannot blame the poor victims. Here is an opening for the Ladies' Benevolent Institution, and if it requires funds with which to assist these unfortunate girls, we are sure that English purses will be open at once that this terrible scandal in our midst may be removed.—*N. C. Daily News.*

ANOTHER EUROPEAN ATTACKED IN SHANTUNG.

A correspondent writing from Chefoo on January 10th, in reference to the reported attack by natives on a European agent of a Bible Society recently in West Shantung writes as follows concerning the affair:—

On New Year's day the British Consul at Chefoo received a telegram from Chi-Ming, dated January 15th, stating "Beaten four times, Yenchow-fu district, returning Chefoo—Emberley." The Rev. W. H. Emberley, formerly of the Wesleyan Mission, is the gentleman in question and he had recently joined the British and Foreign Bible Society, and started in November to visit the western part of Shantung province. On receiving the telegram the Consul with commendable activity sent to the Taotai and urged him to make every possible enquiry, which the Taotai did, and received information to the effect that Mr. Emberley had been molested while selling books in Chü-fu. This being over he went further on and he was again molested. The authorities on learning this sent soldiers to the scene, who brought the rev. gentlemen away in safety and he was sent under escort to Chi-Ming. This is all the news we have had concerning the disturbances so far, but we hope to see Mr. Emberley at Chefoo this week safe and sound.—*Shanghai Daily Press.*

THE OPENING OF HUNAN.

A telegram received recently from Changsha by the local mandarins states that the gentry and merchants of Hunan and Hupeh intend to run a line of steamers between Hankow, Shasi, Wuchang, Ichang, and points in Lake Tungting as far as Changsha, the capital of Hunan. The steamers of the new company will be allowed to carry cargo in addition to passengers and tow junks in the waters not yet opened by treaty to foreign vessels. This prohibition to carry cargo for fear of evading likin duty has been the great obstacle to native merchants establishing successful steamship companies in inland waters.

In a confidential telegraphic dispatch from the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung to Governor Ch'en Pao-ch'en of Hunan, the former earnestly warns the latter to be prepared for the opening soon of Hunan to foreign international trade,

and advises Governor Ch'en to encourage the Hunanese to be prepared to compete in trade with foreigners by having their own steamer and cargo transporting facilities. In conclusion the Viceroy Chang says: "I am never far wrong in my political forecasts and I can assure you that the time has arrived when neither your people nor the Central Government will be able to prevent Hunan province from being opened to international commerce."—*N. C. Daily News.*

DEATH OF GENERAL JONES.

Shanghai, 14th January.

The news of the death of General A. E. Jones, the United States Consul at Chinkiang, was received in Shanghai yesterday morning with very general regret, the lowering of the consular flag to half-mast being the first intimation. General Jones, who was a native of Virginia, was about 65 years of age. During the Civil War he was an officer in the Southern army, and followed Lee in his campaign. After the war he went to Mexico and served the ill-fated Emperor Maximilian, following which he was in the French army in Algeria. When the amnesty was proclaimed he returned to America and took up his home in Minnesota. In 1880 he was appointed Consul at Nagasaki, and six years later was transferred to Chinkiang. He was always prompt and efficient in the performance of his duties. Being retained in office by successive administrations it remained for the present to remove him at a time when long and faithful service could well have been rewarded by his retention, and when impaired health and age would naturally have been more appreciative of the recognition due to loyalty. The General was a most genial companion and his occasional visits to Shanghai were always a source of pleasure to his friends here. About two months ago he was in Shanghai. He was then looking feeble, but his unfailing vivacity left his friends unprepared for the sad news which arrived yesterday. A warm-hearted, generous man is dead, and he has left only friends behind; friends who deeply sympathise with his widow.—*N. C. Daily News.*

MINERALS IN HUPEH.

Mr. Gervase Cooke, M.I.M.E. who is engaged prospecting in the province of Hupeh has lately furnished to the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung a detailed report of his investigations. In addition to ascertaining the locality of other coal measures, he has inspected the existing mines, in the working of which he suggested certain improvements. Iron appears to be fairly plentiful in the districts visited by Mr. Cooke, and samples of copper, silver, and gold were submitted to him for examination. Mr. Cooke discredits the Manganshan coal mines having been on fire, as was reported some months ago, and declares that after inspecting the mines he could not find a trace of fire, although water had been allowed to get into some of the levels. Mr. Cooke strongly criticises the state of things at some of the mines under foreign managers, and mentions that one colliery which only started about four years ago at a cost of £1,600,000 under German management now appears to be finished.—*N. C. Daily News.*

THE BELGIAN LOAN.

It will be news to most people, we fancy, to learn that as a matter of undoubted fact the first instalment of the Belgian Loan has arrived in China. It lies in the Russo-Chinese Bank at Shanghai and amounts to no less than £250,000 sterling. It was transferred from the Bank of Brussels to the Russo-Chinese Bank on the 4th inst. But it is not in the form that Sheng expected and he is unable to "handle" it without the full consent of the chief director of the Belgian Syndicate. We deeply sympathise with Sheng in his disappointment in this respect, which must be very bitter particularly at the approach of the festive and profitable season of China New Year! The heartless Belgian financiers have tied their money up with the banking equivalent of bands of steel, and the money, whether in whole or in part, can only be drawn out of the Bank by M. Hubert, who alone has power to draw cheques

HONGKONG.

against the deposit. It has been sent out to pay for actual work on the Hankow-Peking Railway, as it progresses, and for no other purposes, and the Belgian Syndicate, who have the contract, will only pay as the work advances, which precaution displays a sad lack of confidence on their part towards the exalted Chinese personage with whom they made the contract. Whether it will suit Sheng to build the railway at all or not on these terms, where such elaborate precautions are taken to see that the loan is applied solely to the precise purposes for which those who made it intended, it, remains to be seen. From being previously most generously confiding our Belgian friends have apparently grown most offensively suspicious!—*China Gazette*.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 17th January.

V. B. de Souza, who was charged with the embezzlement of Tls. 10,000, the money of his employers, Messrs. Reiss & Co., Shanghai, was brought before the Chief Justice, Dr. Alpoim, this morning. No witnesses were called, the case being decided upon the depositions taken before the Portuguese Consul at Shanghai. The accused admitted the charge, but asked the Chief Justice to deal with him leniently on account of his having children dependent upon him.

The Attorney-General appeared for Messrs. Reiss & Co. and Dr. Poiars for the accused.

The Chief Justice found the charge proved, but took into consideration the accused's previous good character, and sentenced him to only two years' imprisonment, which is the minimum term for the offence, the maximum being eight years.

As an example the punishment inflicted is, perhaps more than enough. It is not fear of imprisonment that should deter men from dishonesty, but the thought that conviction brings shame and disgrace not only to themselves but to their friends and relatives and to their countrymen generally. This especially applies to the Portuguese of the Far East, who are nearly all in foreign employ, and one and all should do their best to recover for their countrymen the trust and confidence which de Souza's conduct may in some measure have forfeited.

After the case above mentioned had been disposed of the Court heard the case of Dr. Poiars v. the editor of the *Echo Macaense* for abusive language, the result being that the editor was ordered to apologise to Dr. Poiars and pay the court expenses. Mr. N. J. Basto appeared for the *Echo*.

Permits have been granted to a large number of Chinese to have their enla-cula tables in the streets during the Chinese New Year holidays. The inner harbour is quite crowded with junks that have come in for the New Year, the number, I believe, being larger than has been usual in former years.

I hear that H.E. the Governor has invited a number of the leading residents to meet at Government House to-morrow to consider the steps to be taken for the celebration of the fourth centenary of the discovery of the sea route to India by Vasco de Gama. The 20th May, 1898, will be the four hundredth anniversary of Vasco de Gama's arrival at Calicut. The *Echo Macaense* made a good suggestion a few weeks ago, namely, that two monuments should be erected, which should be commemorative not only of the occasion now in question, but also of two great men who rendered important services to Macao, Governor Amaral being one and Colonel Mesquita the other.

It is reported here that Mr. Celestino, the Governor of Timor, is going to Lisbon on leave. This is good news if true.

The experiment of disposing by auction of the seats for the performance of "The Daughter of the Regiment" at Shanghai appears to have been very successful, the prices realised giving the A. D. C. a satisfactory profit over the usual method. The auction took place in the Lyceum Theatre and was fairly well attended. The nine boxes, which usually let for \$12, realised prices varying from \$19.10 to \$25, an average of \$21.80; the dress-circle seats averaged \$4.60 each, and the stalls, \$3.40.

The Chinese New Year celebrations were in full swing at the latter end of last week and the colony now seems to be strangely quiet after the prolonged noise created by the bursting of thousands of crackers and the beating of gongs. But notwithstanding the holidays there has been plenty doing during the week. On the 20th inst. an important meeting of the Justices of the Peace was held and a Committee was appointed to enquire into the sale of injurious liquors in the colony. Sir John Carrington (Chief Justice) distributed the prizes at St. Joseph's College on the afternoon of the 20th. On the following day his Lordship sentenced a man to death for committing a terrible murder in Shelley Street. The Canton steamer *Powan* has been very unfortunate of late. She ran aground in the Canton River on the 19th inst. and on the 25th she collided with the steamer *Kwanglee* as she was proceeding up the harbour fairway. Both vessels were badly damaged, but fortunately no lives were lost, although five firemen narrowly escaped death. Last Friday Mr. E. A. Ram was presented with a handsome gold watch in recognition of the services he has rendered to Hongkong Cricket Club as hon. secretary. On Tuesday His Excellency the Governor officially bade farewell to the Legislative Council. Complimentary speeches were made by unofficial members.

There were 2,967 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 155 were Europeans.

Mr. Rounseville Wildman is in receipt of a dispatch from Washington informing him that the rank of the United States Consulate at Hongkong has been raised by Congress to a Consulate-General.

Sir N. J. Hannen, who is on his way to Bangkok in connection with the Cheek arbitration case, arrived from Shanghai by the *City of Peking* on 18th January. His Honour is accompanied by Lady Hannen and family.

The remains of M. Imbault Huart, the late French Consul at Canton, were on Tuesday night, 18th January, taken from the cemetery at the Happy Valley and conveyed on board the mail steamer *Saghalien* for removal to France.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that H. E. the Governor has been pleased to accept the resignation of Captain J. McCallum from the Hongkong Volunteer Corps upon his appointment to a Battery of Volunteer Artillery in Scotland.

The German steamer *Darmstadt* arrived here on 21st January, with 1,300 officers and men for Kiaochau. A number of the men were ashore yesterday, and they presented quite a smart appearance. The *Darmstadt* leaves for Kiaochau this morning.

Mr. Melton Prior, the well-known artist, is a passenger on the mail steamer *Ganges*, proceeding from Bombay to Shanghai. He leaves India because of the present finish to the Frontier War, and he proceeds to Shanghai, and to Kiaochau, in expectation of "developments there."

As we hinted some time ago, the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Colonial Secretary) will probably be going home on leave about the middle of March on urgent private affairs. Mr. Lockhart will not be away more than six months, so that he will be back in good time for next year's estimates.

The regular meeting of the Victoria Preceptory was held on the 20th instant. Sir Knight D. McDonald was installed Eminent Preceptor for the ensuing year, the installation being performed by P.E.P. Sir Knight John Bryant, assisted by P.E.P. Sir Knight G. C. Anderson, P.E.P. Sir Knight R. Cooke, and P.E.P. Sir Knight E. C. Ray. E.P. Sir Knight D. McDonald then invested his officers as follows:—First Constable, Sir Knight P. R. Simmonds; Second Constable Sir Knight F. D. Goddard; Prelate, F. W. Edwards; Treasurer, Sir Knight C. W. Spriggs; Registrar, Sir Knight Jas. Lochead; Marshal, Sir Knight G. J. B. Sayer, Capt. of the Guard, Sir Knight R. Mitchell; Almoner, Sir Knight Ugo Nervegna; Herald, Sir Knight Wm. Baker; First Standard Bearer, Sir Knight H. B. Bridger; Second Standard Bearer, Sir Knight A. G. Aitken; Organist, Sir Knight, F. W. Hall; Tyler, Sir Knight J. Maxwell.

At the regular meeting of the Eothen Mark Lodge, No. 264, E.C., held at the Freemasons' Hall on Friday, 21st instant, the W. M. elect, Bro. S. J. Hanisch, was duly installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year by Wor Bro. A. O'D. Gourdin and a Board of installed Masters, and he appointed and invested his officers as follows:—S.W., Bro. D. Macdonald; J.W., Bro. F. W. Edwards; Treas., Wor. Bro. A. O'D. Gourdin, P.M.; Sec., Bro. G. Piercy, Jr.; M.O., Bro. J. Lochead; S.O., Bro. F. D. Goddard; J.O., Bro. C. W. Spriggs; J.D., Bro. A. H. Bottenheim; I.G., Bro. A. Crawford; Tyler, Bro. J. R. Grimble.

The eclipse of the sun on Saturday, on 22nd Jan., took place in most favourable weather for observation, so far as Hongkong was concerned, and those who were on the look out for the phenomenon saw it unmarred by the smallest speck of cloud. If the scientific observers on the line of totality were favoured with similar conditions they would no doubt consider themselves especially fortunate. In Hongkong the eclipse was of course only partial and although on looking at it through a smoked glass a large piece appeared to be cut out of the sun it was not sufficient to cause any perceptible diminution of light or in any other way to attract the attention of those who were not watching for it.

We are requested to state that the Hon. E. R. Belilics, C.M.G., has generously offered the Government to supply the funds necessary for the erection of a Reformatory for juvenile offenders, an urgent want long felt in the colony. The site selected for the building and approved is on the spur of the hill opposite Kennedy's stables at Causeway Bay, between the site on which the cotton mills are about to be erected and the polo ground. H.E. the Governor has consented to lay the foundation stone at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, the 29th inst., when the presence of all wishing to see this interesting ceremony will be welcomed. The foundation stone with suitable inscription is being prepared by the Public Works Department.

The Hongkong Volunteer Corps took advantage of the holiday afforded by Chinese New Year day by spending a very profitable time, the Field Battery being engaged in their annual 64-pounder competition at Stonecutter's Island and the Maxim Gun Company at Deep Water Bay, where they had practice with the machine guns. The shooting and drill of the Field Battery were, on the whole, very good indeed, the rectangle being repeatedly fired into. Once the target was knocked over, and later, during officers' practice, it was shattered by a shrapnel shell, the layer being Lieutenant Macdonald. On the return voyage it was announced that, subject to correction, Sergeant Hayward's detachment had won the competition. The targets used by the Maxims were all torn to pieces with bullets, and no fewer than 2,500 rounds were fired.

We have received from "Staff Captain" F. Symons, of the Salvation Army, an intimation that he has been commissioned by Wm. Booth, the "General," to open a Naval and Military Home at Hongkong, principally for men of the Navy and Army, but persons of all nationalities and all grades of Society will be equally welcomed. Suitable premises have been obtained on the first and second floors of No. 79, Queen's Road Central, where a reading and cheap refreshment bar will be opened as soon as the premises are put in order. "Staff Captain" Symons solicits contributions in aid of this undertaking. While acknowledging the good that has been accomplished by the Salvation Army in various parts of the world it may perhaps not be out of place to point out that there is already a soldiers' and sailors' institute in the Queen's Road East, another at Kowloon occupying its own building, and that efforts are at present being made and subscriptions solicited for the establishment of a similar institution in Arsenal Street in a building of its own. It seems to us that it would be better to concentrate effort in this matter and support two really good institutions, one on each side of the harbour, than to have several small competing institutions with precarious incomes and unable to offer the class for which they are intended a really comfortable and attractive place of resort.

The two Triad Society men who were sent back from the Criminal Sessions to the Magistracy were on 21st Jan. taken before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse to be sentenced. Mr. Grist appeared for them and contended that there was no difference between their case and the case of the men who were fined \$25. The Magistrate remarked that as the men had been in gaol some time he thought the ends of justice would be met by a fine of \$50 each.

The Chinese constable who was arrested here because of an allegation made by a woman that he was wanted by the Chinese authorities on charges of murder and piracy committed on the mainland was discharged on the 20th Jan. The Magistrate remarked that the Chinese authorities had not sent in a requisition for the prisoner's rendition, although they had had plenty of time to do so. His Worship had very much pleasure in discharging the constable.

A chandler's shop in Lyndhurst Terrace was burnt out on Saturday, 22nd January, owing to a cracker exploding on the premises. The Fire Brigade attended, but before their arrival the flames had spread so rapidly that damage to the extent of \$500 was done before the fire was extinguished. The premises were insured with the Union Insurance Society for \$1,200. A woman who was said to have thrown the cracker into the shop was arrested, but she was discharged by the magistrate. The Fire Brigade had also to attend a fire in Queen's Road West, but the men's services were fortunately not required, the flames having been put out before any damage worth speaking of had been done.

The Pacific Mail Steamship Company's steamer *City of Peking* completed her hundredth voyage when she arrived in port on 18th Jan. and in honour of this conspicuous event she displayed a considerable amount of bunting, in the centre of which were the bold figures "100." She is an American built ship and was launched in 1874 by Messrs. Roach and Sons, of Chester, Pennsylvania. She arrived in San Francisco early in 1875 and in March of that year she entered the port of Hongkong for the first time. Next to the *Great Eastern* she was then the largest vessel afloat, her gross tonnage being 5,079 and her registered tonnage 3,128. She has travelled nearly a million and a half miles, has been commanded by twelve different captains, has been in twenty-three typhoons and come out of them undamaged, and yet notwithstanding all these vicissitudes she is still good for fourteen knots an hour. This fine old boat was severely tested four years ago. When 1,300 miles from San Francisco her tail shaft broke and she had to complete the journey under sail. This took her thirteen days—a remarkably good performance, all things considered. We heartily wish Captain Tremaine Smith, his officers, engineers, and crew many more years of travel in the *City of Peking*.

Some misunderstanding appears to have arisen with respect to the attitude the Government have taken in regard to the establishment of a school at Kowloon. As far as we can gather no opposition to a school has ever been shown by the Government, but on the contrary they made certain offers to a Committee which was formed some time ago to promote better educational facilities at Kowloon. The Government offered to grant a suitable site to the Committee together with a sum of \$8,000, conditionally upon the Committee undertaking to erect a building and hand it over to the Government duly completed within a reasonable time and further guaranteeing to pay an adequate amount for the salaries of a teaching staff for a period of not less than five years. At first the Committee said they could build a suitable school for \$8,000, but afterwards they asked for \$12,000. The Government refused to give more than the sum first mentioned and as the Committee declined to accept this sum the negotiations proved fruitless. We might add that when the old school was being carried on the Government gave the Committee of management \$50 a month towards the cost of a teaching staff, but they could not guarantee its continuance as the school rested on but a feeble basis. We hope some satisfactory arrangement will ere long be found whereby the Kowloon children may have a good school on that side of the harbour.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation of the funds of the Hospitals:—

Pork Guild	\$300
Sing Woo Co.	100
Yan Woo Co.	50
Fresh Fish Guild	30
Fung Wa Chün	10

That bulky annual, "The Chronicle and Directory for China, Japan, Straits, &c.," has again made its appearance. The volume for 1898 contains all the varied and useful information of its predecessors, and combines therewith some interesting and valuable additions. Among these will be found a handsome and comprehensive plan of Batavia, a new and admirable plan of Hanoi, and several new directories, including the new Treaty ports on the West River, the description of Wuchow being especially full and interesting; the new open ports in Korea, Mokpo and Chinnampo, and those on the borders of Tonkin and Burmah. The other descriptions have been revised and brought up to date, and in spite of the most careful condensation (where possible) the directory proper has increased another 50 pages. The Appendix has also been considerably enlarged by the addition of a number of new conventions and treaties, amongst them being the Tibet-Sikkim Convention, the Burmah Convention signed on the 4th Feb., 1897, by Sir Claude Macdonald, the text of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between China and Japan of July 21st, 1896, and the agreement as to Korea signed by Russia and Japan at Seoul in May, 1896. Another feature in this portion of the work calling for passing notice is the revised chapter on weights, measures, and money, which has been rewritten and rendered clear and up to date. Altogether the present volume will well sustain the reputation of the work for accuracy and fulness of information. It is interesting to note that the pages of this widely distributed publication are becoming increasingly availed of by advertisers, advertisements from all parts of the world being this year considerably in excess of those of preceding issues. As its advantages in this respect, owing to the vast area in which it is the mercantile *vade mecum*, become better known it will be still more used. An Index to Advertisers is given in this issue.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange has paid a dividend for the last half-year at the rate of 30 1/2 per cent. per annum.

The report of the directors of the Grand Hotel, Limited (Yokohama) for the six months ended 31st December last recommends a dividend of 9 per cent., absorbing 22,500 yen, and the writing off for depreciation of 16,000 yen.

At a meeting of the directors of the Shanghai Land Investment Co., Limited, held on the 19th January they decided to propose at the annual general meeting a final dividend for 1897 of 6 1/2 per cent., making 11 per cent. for the year.

We (*Singapore Free Press*) hear it stated that some of the leading members of the Straits-born Chinese will get rid of their *touchangs* shortly and commence their New Year without this outward and visible sign of subjection to the Emperor.

Mr. Eustace Hubert Burrows, B.A., of Keble College, Oxford, Solicitor of the Supreme Court, has been appointed Chief Clerk of H.B.M.'s Supreme Court at Shanghai. He arrived by the last mail, and has taken over the duties of the post.

News reaches us from Amoy to the effect that the pirates infesting the vicinity of that port have become bolder and bolder of late, intercepting and robbing passenger boats within sight even of Amoy. The mandarins seem to be powerless to do anything against the robbers.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A Chinese barber has been charged in the Osaka Court with fending a room to two other Chinese for the purpose of smoking opium, and on the 7th inst. the Court sentenced the prisoner to three years' imprisonment with hard labour, and a Japanese woman servant and the two other Chinese who were caught smoking were each sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment.

Dr. Stuebel, Consul-General for Germany, and Dr. Schrameier returned to Shanghai from Kiachau on the 16th January by the *Loyal*. The latter was expected to return in about a fortnight to Shantung.

A prospectus is being circulated among Chinese tea-merchants in Shanghai of a Chinese Tea Planting and Manufacturing Company, which is to have its seat of operations in the well-known district of Yanglaotung, and is to employ foreign machinery in the manufacture of its tea. It is under the direct patronage and protection of the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, and its financial affairs are to be under the control of the Commissioner of Customs at Hankow. It bids fair, the *N. C. Daily News* says, to be a very successful enterprise.

The Newchwang correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* writes:—Mexican Dollars are extremely scarce, although we have now a full fledged bank in the place. It appears that the Chinese banking firms and others are in possession of large quantities of sycee, but the adoption of the dollar and its fractional parts by the people generally, even far inland, has made the former commodity of currency scarce in the port. Dollars are at present bought at 80, an unprecedented exchange. At similar times during past winters, the average exchange stood at about 70 and 69.

The monotony of the last trip of the *City of Peking* from Honolulu to Yokohama was disagreeably disturbed by the theft of \$5,000 (gold) worth of jewelry from a lady travelling in the saloon. The property had been cleverly abstracted from a trunk, at the bottom of which she had placed it for safety. On ascertaining her loss, she immediately informed Captain Smith, who instituted inquiries without result. Finally, the lady offered \$500 reward for the discovery of the missing jewelry, and the very next day a Chinaman gave information that he had found it in one of the water-closets. It was handed over to the purser pending further official investigation, which will probably take place at Shanghai.—*Japan Times*.

The *Nagasaki Press* of the 7th says:—The British steamer *Puritan*, which arrived here from Maryport and Cardiff on the 1st inst., brought a large quantity of railway material for the Keysun Railway Company. The vessel experienced very fine weather up to the time of her arrival off the north of the island of Luzon (December 16th), when a most severe monsoon set in. Fearful weather, with very high seas, was then met with, causing considerable damage to the vessel by smashing in the hatches and filling the holds with tons of water. Turnabout Island was reached on the 22nd, when the ship was obliged to put back to Amoy to repair damages. From Amoy moderate weather was encountered, the vessel arriving safely at this port on the 1st inst.

At Shanghai on the 16th January, shortly before 6 a.m., a fire occurred in the Foochow Road, near Hupeh Road, which resulted in the destruction of nine houses and more or less damage to four others. When the fire was discovered two men and a woman were running out of a house, when the woman fell. Without waiting to help her, the men made their way to the police station and the woman was burnt to death. The body was recovered on the 18th, so charred as to be almost unrecognisable. It appears that the husband, leaving his wife, who had fallen down the stairs, rushed out of the house to give the alarm at the Louza Police Station, though there were several firemen and police about who could have easily saved his wife if he had told them she was in the house.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 12th January.—Silk.—Re reels.—We hear of no further settlements. Filatures.—Have been in good demand and prices advanced \$10 to \$20 per picul, but owing to the approach of the native New Year holidays dealers refuse to contract further at present, notwithstanding the advance offered. From prices paid we quote: \$800/790 for Kwong Shun Cheong 11/13 and 13/15, \$775 for Kwong Lun Fung 11/13, \$730 for Shing King Lun and Kwong King Loong 11/13, \$720 for Y. e. Wo Loong 13/15, and Kwong Pou K. e 11/13, \$725 for Cheong K. e 10/12, \$700 are offered for 2nd class 10/12, \$635 for 2nd class

18/23, but dealers ask \$5 to \$10 more. Short-reels—Have been in good demand, especially the lower grades, 14/18 and 16/20, which are very scarce. Waste.—There is little more demand and prices are steady.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 26th January.—The market has been closed on account of the Chinese New Year. Quotations for Formosa are nominally \$46.50 to \$46.80. Sales, 450 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 26th January.—Owing to the Chinese New Year holidays very few sales have been reported. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.30 to 7.33	per pic.
do. " 2, White...	6.92 to 6.95	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.75 to 4.77	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.62 to 4.64	"
Swallow, No. 1, White...	7.20 to 7.25	"
do. " 2, White...	6.90 to 6.92	"
Swallow, No. 1, Brown...	4.65 to 4.68	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.50 to 4.52	"
Soochow Sugar Candy...	11.20 to 11.22	"
Shekloong " "	9.71 to 9.75	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Yarrowdale*, sailed on the 5th January. For New York:—14,055 rolls matting, 1,395 packages firecrackers, 746 packages merchandise, 369 cases palm leaf fans, 100 casks ginger, 30 cases essential oil, 15 boxes bristles, and 13 boxes chinaware.

The P. & O. steamer *Malacca*, sailed on the 8th January. For Gibraltar:—8 cases curios. For London and/or Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For London:—1 case cigars, 2 cases essence of ilang-ilang from Manila, 170 bales split bamboos, 115 bales canes, 67 bales and 3 cases feathers, 15 cases bamboo baskets, 156 cases leaf fans, 26 cases chinaware, 47 cases blackwoodware, 40 cases aniseed oil, 10 cases cassia oil, 550 casks ginger, 1 case crockery, 1 case silk piece goods, 150 cases preserves, 5 cases cigars, 3 cases pearl shells, 34 cases curios and effects, 2 cases electroplated ware, 40 cases gall-nuts, and 1,936 rolls mats and matting. For Malta:—9 cases curios. For Trieste:—152 packages tea.

Per German steamer *Niobe*, sailed on the 12th January. From Hongkong for Hamburg:—29 packages tea, 25 bales canes, 7 cases blackwoodware, 5 cases cigars, 500 cases cassia, 200 cases cassia buds, and 5 packages sundries. For Hamburg option London:—250 bales broken cassia lignea. For Antwerp:—5 bales canes, 673 bales bamboo scraps, 8 bales hemp cloth, 200 cases cassia, 500 bales broken cassia, and 201 rolls matting. For Bremen:—1 case cigars. For Rotterdam:—6 cases cigars.

Per German steamer *Della*, sailed on the 13th January. From Hongkong for Port Said:—92 empty beer casks. For Odessa:—133 bales canes, 1 package chinaware, 2 cases broken cassia lignea, 1 package rattan core, 1 package fans, and 1 package galangal. For Havre:—43 cases paper, 2,090 rolls matting and mats, 4 bales tea mats, 5 cases curios, 51 bales canes, 84 cases chinaware, 20 cases palm leaf fans, 43 cases blackwoodware, 24 cases feathers, 11 cases human hair, 2 boxes tea, 100 cases camphor, and 16 cases cantharides. For Havre option Hamburg:—6 packages canes, 258 cases camphor, and 300 cases palm leaf fans. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—100 packages camphor, 43 cases bristles, and 60 cases essential oil. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London and/or Antwerp:—100 cases bristles. For Hamburg:—1,491 bales canes, 1,032 bales feathers, 543 cases cassia, 100 cases cassia buds, 30 cases aniseed oil, 3 casks wood oil, 100 cases camphor oil, 2 boxes camphor, 90 cases bristles, 10 cases teawood canes, 503 packages tea, 36 bales rattan shavings, 2 cases camphor wood trunks, 150 rolls mats, 10 cases palm leaf fans, 19 cases ginger, 13 cases curios, 14 packages firecrackers, 15 boxes china paper, and 10 packages sundries.

Per American ship *New York*, sailed on the 14th January. For San Francisco:—35,602 packages merchandise, 2,000 bales hemp, 1,592 packages tea, 2,320 empty quick silver flasks,

743 bags tapioca, 430 bales kapok, 700 rolls matting, 75 bags coffee, 68 boxes palm leaf fans, 46 packages rattan furniture, 20 cases camphorwood trunks, 100 boxes cassia, and 60 bales gunnies.

Per steamer *Kaisow*, sailed on the 18th Jan. For London:—891 boxes tea (18,711 lbs. Scaper), 790 rolls matting, 251 cases ginger, 188 packages canes, 150 casks soy, 34 cases china ware, 14 cases blackwoodware, 10 cases bristles, 8 cases sticks, 6 cases cassia, 5 cases effects and curios, and 2 cases paper. For Manchester:—250 bales waste silk. For Glasgow:—3 cases curios and 1 package private effects. For Liverpool:—19 bales lamp wick.

Per steamer *Poseidon*, sailed on the 18th January. For Trieste:—2,472 cases cassia lignea, 100 cases cassia buds, 1 case china ware, 31 cases essential oil, 100 bales rattan, and 25 cases staraniseed. For Aden:—98 cases cassia lignea, 180 cases chinaware, and 40 bales galangal. For Hodeida:—25 bags turmeric and 12 bales galangal. For Bombay:—2 cases china ware, 11 cases camphor, 2 cases essential oil, 2 cases lacquer ware, 20 cases glass beads, 15 cases staraniseed, 2,500 bags sugar, 15 bags turmeric, and 1 case fans. For Karachi:—125 bags sugar.

Per steamer *Saghalien*, sailed on the 19th January. For France:—363 bales raw silk, 8 bales hair, 17 cases silk piece goods, 55 packages tea, 95 packages canes, 86 packages matting, 6 packages cassia, 40 packages bristles, and 10 packages gall nuts.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 26th January.—Bengal—There has been a steady business doing during the week under review and prices have improved, current quotations being \$715 for New Fatna, \$707½ for New Benares, and \$727½ for Old Benares.

Malwa.—Prices have enhanced for this drug, the following being the latest figures:—New (this year's) \$730 without allowance. New (last year's) \$770 with allowance of 0 to 1½ cts. Old (2½ yrs.) \$800 " " 0 to 2½ " " (4½ ") \$820 without allowance " (6½ ") \$830 with allowance of 0 to 1 " " " "

Persian.—Transactions have been limited, with no change in quotations, Oily continuing to be quoted at \$40 to \$630, and Paper-wrapped at \$540 to \$630 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—New Fatna..... 2,210 chests. New Benares..... 190 " Old Benares..... 550 " Malwa..... 440 " Persian..... 1,170 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1898.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Jan. 19	712½	—	702½	730	730/770	—
Jan. 20	713½	—	703½	730	730/770	—
Jan. 21	713½	—	703½	730	730/770	—
Jan. 22	712½	—	703½	730	730/770	—
Jan. 23	712½	—	703½	730	730/770	—
Jan. 24	712½	—	705	730	730/770	—
Jan. 25	715	—	707½	727½	730/770	—
Jan. 26	715	—	707½	727½	730/770	—

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 26th January.—Sales to a fair extent have transpired at previous rates. Stock, about 1,500 bales.

Bombay..... \$16.50 to 18.00 p. pl.
Kurrachee..... " to " "
Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca..... 18.00 to 19.50 "
Shanghai and Japanese... 21.00 to 23.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo... 21.00 to 23.00 "
Madras (Best)..... " to " "
Sales: 900 bales Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca

RICE.

HONGKONG, 26th January.—Business has not yet been generally resumed since the Chinese New Year holidays, but the transactions that have taken place have established higher rates. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary..... \$2.30 to 2.35
" Round, good quality..... 2.56 to 2.60
" Long..... 2.75 to 2.82

Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2... 2.40 to 2.46
" Garden, " No. 1... 2.80 to 2.85
" White..... 3.80 to 3.85
" Fine Cargo..... 3.93 to 4.03

COALS.

HONGKONG, 26th January.—Sales 10,000 tons Japanese on private terms. Market steady.

Quotations are:—
Cardiff..... \$18.50 to 19.50 ex ship, nominal.
Australian..... \$10.00 to 11.50 ex ship, steady
Milki Lump } 9.00 to 10.25 nominal.
and Small }
Mojil Lump... 7.75 to 10.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay Lump 9.00 to —
Hongay Dust.. 4.80 to —
Briquettes... 10.00 to —

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 26th January.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—*Bombay Yarn.*—230 bales No. 10 at \$80 to \$87; 190 bales No. 12 at \$80 to \$86; 110 bales No. 16 at \$90 to \$96; 195 bales No. 20 at \$92.50 to \$98.75. *Grey Shirtings.*—600 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Joss Bat \$1.95, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. 2 Fish at \$2.85, 1,200 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Triangle at \$3.72½, 1,500 pieces 10 lbs. Stag at \$3.85. *White Shirtings.*—500 pieces No. 4,000 2 Fish at \$3.45, 900 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.15, 600 pieces Blue Lion at \$6.50, pieces 0 at \$4.30, 500 pieces Fox and Duck at \$5.35. *T-Cloths.*—375 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Silver Dragon, at \$2.20, 3,000 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Blue Dragon at \$2.30 to \$2.32½. *Turkey Reds.*—150 pieces 8 lbs. Scarlet at \$7.05, 150 pieces 9 lbs. Scarlet at \$7.45, 125 pieces 10 lbs. Scarlet at \$8, 1,200 pieces 3½ lbs. Fluteman at \$1.90 to \$2. *Camlets.*—50 pieces 0 Birds at \$12.45.

COTTON YARN. per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s..... 72.00 to 105.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24..... 108.00 to 115.00
" 22 to 24..... 110.00 to 115.00
" 28 to 32..... 121.00 to 126.00
" 38 to 42..... 130.00 to 138.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS. per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs. 1.70 to 1.80
7lbs. 2.00 to 2.05
8½ lbs. 2.45 to 3.15
9 to 10 lbs. 3.35 to 4.10
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.35 to 2.55
58 to 60 " 2.70 to 3.40
64 to 66 " 3.50 to 4.35
Fine 4.30 to 7.10
Book-folds. 3.75 to 5.60
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.65 to 1.30
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 1.50 to 1.70
7lbs. (32 ") " 1.85 to 2.10
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 1.65 to 1.80
7lbs. (32 ") " 2.05 to 2.75
8 to 8½ oz. (36 in) 2.20 to 3.15
Drills, English—40 yds. 13½ to 3.70 to 5.10
14lbs.

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 7lbs. } 1.50 to 4.00
Brocades—Dyed 3.90 to 5.60
per yard
Damasks..... 0.12 to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted 0.08 to 0.14
Velvets—Black, 22 in..... 0.20 to 0.30
Velveteens—18 in. 0.16 to 0.18
per dozen

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.45 to 0.90

WOOLLENS

per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.55 to 1.35
German 1.15 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. 1.15 to 5.25
per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet 6.50 to 9.00
Assorted 6.60 to 9.10
Camlets—Assorted 12.00 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches. } 11.00 to 20.00
Assorted }
Orleans—Plain 7.00 to 8.50
per pair
Blankets—8 to 12lbs. 5.50 to 12.00

METALS

per picul
Iron—Nail Rod 4.05 to 4.10
Square, Flat Round Bar ... 4.10 to 4.15
Swedish Bar 5.80 to —
Small Round Rod 4.75 to —
Hoop..... 5.50 to —
Wire 15/25 9.00 to —
Old Wire Rope 1.50 to 3.00
Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop... 8.30 to —
Australian..... 8.30 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz. 29.00 to —
Vivian's, 14/20 oz. 29.00 to —
Elliot's, 14/20 oz. 29.00 to —

Composition Nails	to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	29.50 to —
Tiles	29.00 to —
Tin	to —
per box	—
Tin-Plates	5.90 to —
per cwt. case	—
Steel ½ to ¾	5.75 to —
SUNDRIES	per picul
Quicksilver	126.00 to —
per box	—
Window Glass	4.10 to —
per 10-gal. case	—
Kerosene Oil	1.86 to 1.87

EXCHANGE.

WEDNESDAY, 26th January.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.38½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.42
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.92½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	46
Credits, 60 days' sight	47
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	142
Bank, on demand	142½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	142
Bank, on demand	142½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	7 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	9 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	10.43
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	54.50

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 26th January.—A fair business has been put through during the week and rates have in most cases shown an advance, the market closing firm with an upward tendency.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have remained inactive with little or no business at 187 and 186 per cent. prem. cash and small sales at 195 per cent. prem. for April 30th. The latest London quotation is \$44 10s. Nationals continue quiet and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have changed hands at \$71 and Unions at \$229, closing with sellers of both at quotations. Cantons are on offer at \$150 with small sales, and Straits have again changed hands at \$15. Yangtzes and North Chinas are still on offer and without business at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong after further sales at \$375 remain steady at that rate and Chinas have found buyers at \$107½ and \$108.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have changed hands during the week at \$30 cash and at \$30 and \$30½ for end of March, closing quieter at \$29 cash on account of the collision of the Company's steamer *Powan* with the C. M. steamer *Kwanglee* in the harbour on the 25th instant. Indo-Chinas have further advanced and after fair sales at \$53, \$54, \$55, and \$56 close firm at the last rate. Sales have also been effected at \$58 for March, and at \$60 for June, market closing steady at \$56. Douglasses have changed hands at \$57 and \$57½. China and Manilas and China Mutuals without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have further improved their position with sales at \$163, \$164, \$165, \$166, \$167, and \$168, closing steady at the last rate. Luzons have been further enquired for at \$41, \$42, and \$43, but no sales have been reported and the market closes with sellers at \$44.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled firm and have advanced to \$7.25 after sales at \$6.75,

\$6.85, and \$7 for Ordinaries, Preferences having changed hands at \$1½ and \$2. Charbonnages have found buyers and close firm at \$115 cash and sales have been effected at \$120 for May. New Balmorals continue quiet and neglected at quotations. Raubs have changed hands at \$22 and close steady with small buyers at \$22½. Olivers have ruled quiet and without sales at quotations. Great Easterns have been in better demand and have found buyers at \$3.10 to \$3.35, closing steady at \$3.20.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have further improved to 234 per cent. prem. with little or no business. Kowloon Wharves have changed hands at \$58 and Wanchai Godowns at \$41½.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been negotiated in fair lots at \$73, \$73½, and \$74, closing at \$74 with sellers. Hotels have ruled rather quieter at \$55 to \$54 without sales. West Points and Humphreys have continued quiet with small business at quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Watsons have changed hands at \$11.85 and \$12, closing with sellers at the latter rate. There is nothing else to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		[\$357½, sales
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	186 ½/o prem=
China & Japan, pref.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary	£3 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred	£1	£5. 5s., buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$20
Founders Shares	£1	\$20
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$5
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8.75, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$168, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 100, buyers
Hongkong	\$20	\$17, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 110
Lau Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 105
Soyche	Tls. 500	Tls. 540
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 90
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$5½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$29, buyers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$34
Do. New Issue	\$2½	\$18
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$110
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$10, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$105
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$54, sales
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$113
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$58, sales
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$171, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$234 p. ct. prem.=
Insurance—		417½, sales
Canton	\$50	\$150, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$109, buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$71, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$37½, sales
North-China	£25	Tls. 118
Straits	\$20	\$15, sales & sellers
Union	\$25	\$229, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$142½, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$74, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9.25
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$19
West Point Building	\$40	\$21½
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$44, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$115
Great E. & C. Donian	\$5	\$8, sales
Do. Do.	\$2½	\$3.20, sellers
Jebeu	\$5	\$2, sales
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.10, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.30, buyers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$19, sellers
Do. B. ...	\$2½	\$3, sellers
Punjom	\$5	\$7½, sales & buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$2, sales
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$22½, sales
New Amoy Dock	\$10	\$18, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$76, sellers
China Mutual Ord. ...	£5	£2 15s. sellers
Do. Preference	£10	£7 10s. sellers
Do. Do.	£10	£5 10s. sellers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$57½, sales
H. Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$29, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$56, sales
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$2, sales
United Asbestos	\$2	\$2, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse Co. ...	\$37½	\$41½, sales
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12, sellers

J. V. Y. VERNON, Broker.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 26th January.—During the past fortnight freights coastwise have continued weak with comparatively few settlements to report.

From Saigon to Hongkong there is now a slight demand setting in and the rate for medium-sized steamers is firm at 15 cents per picul. To Java 25 cents has been paid, and further tonnage to load in about a fortnight could be placed at same rate. To Japan tonnage is wanted March and April loading at 34 cents per picul; owners ask 38 cents per picul.

From Bangkok to Hongkong, the closing rate is 22 cents outside and 27 cents per picul inside the bar.

Japan coal freight close dull. At the beginning of the fortnight \$1.65 was freely paid Moji to this, but \$1.60 per ton is now hardly obtainable.

Sailing tonnage.—The *Lothair* has been taken for Callao, to replace the *West York* and the *Sachen*, American ship, load Singapore, to United States; the British ship *Selkirk*, 1,646 tons, left for Manila to load a cargo of emp at \$3.50 U.S. gold per ton of 4 bales. There are three vessels disengaged in port, registering 2,022 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Sachen—American ship, 1,267 tons, Singapore to New York or Boston.

Lothair—Italian barque, 794 tons, Hongkong to Callao, £1,200.

Selkirk—British steamer, 1,646 tons, left for Manila to load hemp for U.S.A., at \$3.50 U.S. gold.

Nanchang—British steamer, 1,063 tons, Saigon to one port Java, 25 cents per picul.

Ocampo—British steamer, 1,329 tons, 2/3 ports Java to Hongkong, 22½ cents per picul.

Triton—German steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13½ cents per picul.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,271 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Donar—German steamer, 1,202 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14½ cents per picul.

Talies—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Jacob Christensen—Norwegian steamer, 1,088 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Rio—German steamer, 1,265 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Hansa—German steamer, 1,253 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Astrid—Norwegian steamer, 976 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.65 per ton.

Glenesk—British steamer, 2,275 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.60 per ton.

Kwong Sang—British steamer, 989 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.65 per ton.

Canton—British steamer, 1,110 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.65 per ton.

Else—German steamer, 898 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.65 per ton.

Chusan—German steamer, 719 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.60 per ton; to Canton 1.80 per ton.

Terrier—Norwegian steamer, 1,008 tons, 3 trips, Hongay to Swatow, \$2.00 per ton.

Germania—German steamer, 1,775 tons, 2 trips, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, monthly, 12 months, \$5,500 per month.

Ariel—Norwegian steamer, 993 tons, monthly, 10 months, \$5,800 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Hector* (str.), *Pinguic* (str.),

Ceylon (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Doric* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*Lyderhorn* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Darmstadt* (str.), *Preussen* (str.).

For BALTIMORE.—*Standard*.

For PORTLAND.—*Braemar* (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—*Yamashiro Maru* (str.), *Changsha* (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—*Inaba Maru* (str.), *Laos* (str.).

For VICTORIA.—*Tucuma* (str.).

For SEATTLE.—*Kagoshima Maru* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

HONGKONG.

January—ARRIVALS.

- 18, Pakhoi, British str., from Hongay.
- 19, Orestes, British str., from Shanghai.
- 19, Canton, British str., from Moji.
- 19, Jason, British str., from Liverpool.
- 19, Ningchow, British str., from Liverpool.
- 19, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 19, Tosa Maru, Japanese str., from Singapore.
- 19, Dagmar, Norwegian str., from Iloilo.
- 19, Petrarch, German str., from Moji.

19, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 19, Kutsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 19, Foochow, British str., from Canton.
 19, Taishun, Chinese str., from Canton.
 19, Amphitrite, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 19, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Kwongsang, British str., from Moji.
 20, Sagami Maru, Japanese str., from Amoy.
 20, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.
 20, Frejr, Danish str., from Hoihow.
 20, Taichow, British str., from Bangkok.
 20, Taiyick, German str., from Swatow.
 20, Deike Rickmers, Ger. str., from Singapore.
 20, Hansa, German str., from Moji.
 20, Germania, German str., from K'chinotzu.
 21, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 21, Iysemoon, German str., from Canton.
 21, Tacoma, British str., from Tacoma.
 21, Bormida, Italian str., from Bombay.
 21, Darmstadt, Ger. str., from Wilhelmshaven.
 21, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., from Spore.
 21, Java, British str., from Yokohama.
 21, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from S'noseki.
 21, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
 21, Omi Maru, Japanese str., from Sydney.
 21, Priam, British str., from Moji.
 21, Toyo Maru, Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.
 21, Wosang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 21, Lienshing, British str., from Bangkok.
 22, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
 22, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
 22, Onsang, British str., from Samarang.
 22, Whampoa, British str., from Chinkiang.
 22, Mongkut, British str., from Bangkok.
 22, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
 22, Nord, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 23, Terrier, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 23, Loyal, Dutch str., from Shanghai.
 23, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 23, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 23, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., from Y'hama.
 23, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
 23, Martha, German str., from Iloilo.
 23, Paoting, British str., from Hongay.
 24, Rosetta, British str., from Yokohama.
 24, Ganges, British str., from Bombay.
 24, Hainan, German str., from Quinhon.
 24, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 24, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 24, Tulenkun, Amr. schr., from Ponape.
 25, Donar, German str., from Moji.
 25, Phra Nang, British str., from Oturu.
 25, Verona, British str., from Shanghai.
 25, Yamashiro Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
 25, Dante, German str., from Saigon.
 25, Daphne, German str., from Chinkiang.
 25, Decima, German str., from Singapore.
 25, Independent, German str., from Iloilo.
 25, Kalgan, British str., from Chinkiang.
 25, Pronto, German str., from Tournon.
 25, Wuotan, German str., from Saigon.
 25, Phra Chom Klao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
 25, Nerite, British str., from Batoum.
 25, Prometheus, British str., from Liverpool.
 26, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Swatow.
 26, Catherine Apear, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 26, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
 26, Chingping, Chinese str., from Chefoo.

January— DEPARTURES.

19, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
 19, Benledi, British str., for New York.
 19, China, German str., for Saigon.
 19, Empress of China, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 19, Glengarry, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Keongwai, British str., for Bangkok.
 19, Rio, German str., for Amoy.
 19, Saghalien, French str., for Europe.
 19, Smit, Dutch str., for Iloilo.
 19, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 20, Astrid, Norwegian str., for Yokohama.
 20, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
 20, Tosa Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 20, Ingraban, German str., for Saigon.
 20, Foochow, British str., for Kebo.
 20, Guthrie, British str., for Australia.
 20, Kriemhild, Ger. str., for Hamburg.
 20, Orestes, British str., for London.
 20, Peiyang, German str., for Shanghai.
 20, Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 20, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 20, Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Chingtu, British str., for Kobe.
 21, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 21, Hermann, German str., for Padang.
 21, Kweiyang, British str., for Iloilo.
 21, Memnon, British str., for Sandakan.
 21, Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.

21, Ningchow, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Pakhoi, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Sagami Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 21, Tallee, German str., for Saigon.
 21, Taiyick, German str., for Samarang.
 22, Java, British str., for Singapore.
 22, Amphitrite, Aust. str., for Shanghai.
 22, Chowtai, British str., for Bangkok.
 22, Bullmouth, British str., for Calcutta.
 24, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 24, Darmstadt, German str., for Kiowchow.
 24, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
 24, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 24, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 24, Priam, British str., for London.
 24, Selkirk, British ship, for Manila.
 25, Canton, British str., for Yokohama.
 25, Ganges, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Jason, British str., for Amoy.
 25, Kutsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 25, Omi Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 25, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., for Bombay.
 25, Kalgan, British str., for Canton.
 26, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 26, City of Peking, Amr. str., for S. Francisco.
 26, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
 26, Deike Rickmers, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
 26, Haimun, British str., for Amoy.
 26, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 26, Nord, Norwegian str., for Pulo Sembilan.
 26, Deucalion, British str., for Kidat.
 26, Frejr, Danish str., for Pakhoi.
 26, Kwongsang, British str., for Kobe.
 26, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
 26, Nerite, British str., for Yokohama.
 26, Paoting, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 26, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
 26, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Canton.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Saghalien*, for Hongkong from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Messrs. Waldhorn, R. E. Toeg, P. Y. Alexander, T. H. Oxley, and L. Hernandez; from Yokohama, Mr. Sandel, Revs. Lecomte and Raclet, and Mr. Rai Ping; from Kobe, Mr. Dan Hun Ban; from Nagasaki, Mrs. Ah Sun; for Saigon from Yokohama, Mr. Stem; for Singapore from Shanghai, Mr. F. G. Ware; from Kobe, Mr. Komaki; for Colombo from Yokohama, Mr. R. Ridd; for Port Said from Nagasaki, Lieut. Stauraky, Messrs. de Lohmen, Sesterkos, Antonoff, Auspinsky, and Borowsky; for Marseilles from Shanghai, Mr. Wagner, and Rev. Etienne; from Yokohama, Comdr. Mougins, Messrs. Shimose and Schneider; from Nagasaki, Mr. W. Denbigh.

Per *Sydney*, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Mr. Runcie; from Colombo, Mr. Landesmann, from Singapore, Mr. Zaleski (Apostolic Envoy); Mr. R. F. Buziger, Rev. Somers, Messrs. Han Choon, Leong Hon, and Loo Kit Lum, and Mrs. Oh Tet; from Saigon, Mr. Napleggi; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Messrs. Martin and Wery; from Singapore, Mrs. Schinker and child, Mr. Tan Hang See; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Messrs. Okano, Oka, Hata, Haupt, and Richard, Mr. and Miss Fliche; from Singapore, Messrs. Daly and Drechmeier; from Saigon, Messrs. Luperne, Juventin, Aubert, Bal, and Emile Levy.

Per *Kutsang*, from Calcutta, &c., Mr. Botham; Per *Tacoma*, from Tacoma, &c., Messrs. O. F. Williams, U.S. Consul for Manila, W. W. Scott, K. Agapeef, and L. B. Worcester, and Mr. and Mrs. Zook.

Per *Bormida*, from Singapore, Col. Carlos Alexander, Mr. Parasantal.

Per *Java*, from Yokohama, &c., Mr. Eastham, Mrs. Jamison, Messrs. Dover, Blanchard, Willis, and Drummond.

Per *Omi Maru*, from Australia, Capt. J. B. Carpenter, Messrs. Norman and H. Hardy, Mrs. More, Mr. Watanabe.

Per *Loongmoon*, from Shanghai, Mr. Cataner.

Per *Ganges*, for Hongkong from London, Asst. Paymaster W. J. Bull, Mr. Hipwell, Rev. J. Beattie, Dr. and Mrs. Horden, Messrs. McGlashin, Lewis, H. R. Stephenson, and L. H. Escombe; from Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. Leeming, Mr. E. R. Halifax; from Bombay, Dr. D. R. Pochaje, Messrs. Fraser and H. W. D. Shallard; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Le Jeune, Messrs. L. W. Buhlmann, H. T. Rankin, and A. Y. Easton; for Shanghai from London, Misses

Ashton, Lewis, Cameron, and Cajander, Mrs. Cameron, Mr. Cameron, junr., and child, Rev. and Mrs. Hope Gill, Mr. and Mrs. Tomkinson, 3 children and infant, Miss Tree, Mr. A. Lawrence; from Colombo, Mr. Koebel; from Bombay, Messrs. Melton Prior and A. Ahmedally; for Yokohama from London, Mr. W. W. Eadie, Capt. Shimonaura; from Brindisi, Mr. W. S. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Windeler; from Bombay, Mr. H. A. Kader.

Per *Rosetta*, from Yokohama for Malta, Mr. E. Geoghegan; for Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. Albert A. Smith; from Kobe for Hongkong, Miss Sealy; for Bombay, Mr. W. Wilson; for London, Messrs. E. S. Kroger, Ole Nielsen, and A. Stram; for Nagasaki from Hongkong, Messrs. E. E. Denny, R. V., P. R. T. Brown, Alfd. T. Pritchard, Sufong, and Ah Sing.

Per *Verona*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Dyer, Messrs. L. Lyndon, Talbot, and T. S. Ransome; for Singapore, Lieut. Warneford; for Colombo, Mr. J. C. Hanna; for Brindisi, Mr. R. S. Raphael; for Marseilles, Messrs. E. J. Cooper and F. M. Gratton, Misses Clark, Maddison, Marie Guex, and Mr. R. H. Case.

DEPARTED.

Per *Lightning*, for Singapore, Mr. Murchie; for Calcutta, Mr. Chun Chow, Mr. and Mrs. Mookerjee, Messrs. A. P. Vawser and Leslie.

Per *Sydney*, for Shanghai from Hongkong, Messrs. H. Merck and C. A. Xavier; for Kobe, Mr. Ah Choy; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Messrs. Martin and Wery; from Singapore, Mrs. Schinker and child, Mr. Tan Hang See; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Messrs. Okano, Oka, Hata, Haupt, and Richard, Mr. and Miss Fliche; from Singapore, Messrs. Daly and Drechmeier; from Saigon, Messrs. Luperne, Juventin, Bal, Aubert, and Emile Levy.

Per *Saghalien*, for Saigon from Hongkong, Messrs. P. C. Hay, V. W. Elemonoff, and P. D. Pranchandy; for Singapore, Messrs. P. Sandel, J. A. Stewart, Lye Fook, and Rev. P. Penichon; for Suez, Mr. G. S. Harris; for Marseilles, General Donkhosky, Mrs. Donkhosky, Miss M. Titoff, Messrs. Shaniovsky and H. Rychouwer, Mr. and Mrs. Isnard, Revs. D. Cretin and A. Bricard; for Saigon from Yokohama, Mr. Stem; for Singapore from Shanghai, Mr. F. G. Ware; from Kobe, Mr. Komaki; for Colombo from Yokohama, Mr. R. Ridd; for Port Said from Nagasaki, Lieut. Stauraky, Messrs. de Lohmen, Sesterkos, Antonoff, Auspinsky, and Borowsky; for Marseilles from Shanghai, Mr. Wagner, and Rev. Etienne; from Yokohama, Capt. Mougins, Messrs. Shimose and Schneider; from Nagasaki, Mr. W. Denbigh.

Per *Keongwai*, for Bangkok, Sir Nicholas and Lady Hennen, Miss Hennen, Messrs. N. Hennen, W. Cowan and Pietroni.

Per *Empress of China*, for Shanghai, Mrs. Finch, Messrs. W. H. Black, C. A. Bamfylde, Capt. H. W. Peck, Messrs. J. P. Grant, Echelberger, C. W. Drechmeier, and Lo Pak Shin; for Nagasaki, Mr. E. Landesmann; for Kobe, Mr. R. Young; for Yokohama, Mr. Chow Kam Woo; for Victoria, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Cheong and child; for San Francisco, Mr. H. J. Van Hill; for London, Messrs. W. M. Johnstone and N. Holme; for Liverpool, Mr. G. W. Browne.

Per *Guthrie*, for Australia, Mr. and Mrs. Skillen and 4 children.

Per *Omi Maru*, from Sydney for Japan, Mrs. More and Mr. Watanabe.

Per *Java*, from Hongkong for London, Miss Brooks, Messrs. D. A. R. Kirwan, R. Felzenauria, D. C. H. Dalrymple, P. Y. Alexander, Stopani, and Capt. Wale; for Singapore, Messrs. D. Gilchrist, and F. Leyburn; for London from Kobe, Mr. J. Eastham; from Shanghai, Mrs. W. B. Jamison, and Mr. Blanchard.

Per *Esmeralda*, for Manila, Messrs. C. Horm, R. Turner, Quirico Pons y Galeerin, E. Aperiocio, Gustave Steiner, and O. F. Williams.

Per *Ganges*, for Shanghai from Hongkong, Messrs. J. Denison, A. Rouffard, A. Shewan, and Waldhorn, Mr. and Mrs. Le Jeune, and Mr. Chevalier; from Bombay, Messrs. Melton Prior and A. Ahmedally; from Colombo, Mr. Koebel; from London, Misses Ashton, Cane, Cameron, and Cajander, Mr. and Mrs. Cameron, Jr. and child, Rev. and Mrs. Hope Gill, Mr. and Mrs. Tomkinson, 3 children and infant, Miss Tree, and Mr. Lawrence.

Printed and Published by D. WARREN SMITH, at 22, Wyndham Street, Victoria, Hongkong.